

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Russian navy fires officers

MOSCOW (AP) — The commander of the Russian navy fired at least three officers after an inquiry into the deaths of naval cadets stationed in the Russian Far East, the ITAR-TASS news agency said Sunday. At least four cadets died and another 86 were hospitalised last month at the Pacific training base of Russky Island, near the port of Vladivostok, 6,400 kilometres east of Moscow. The ITAR-TASS report said Admiral Felix Gromov ordered the removal of three officers and senior medical personnel for "failure to take measures to prepare the military township for wintering, and for lapses in the welfare support and social protection of personnel." Conditions were always tough in the Soviet military, and its Russian successors are having to cope with budget cuts, high inflation and a breakdown in regular supply lines.

'Bomb hoax' on Israel-bound plane

BELGRADE (AP) — A Sabena jetliner en route to Israel with 147 people on board landed at Delegrade's airport Sunday after the Belgian officials said. But Sabena spokesman Patrick du Bois said the 136 passengers were checked after the plane landed and that "none showed any indication of" being a "terrorist." There were 11 crew members aboard. "Our hypothesis now is that it was a false alarm," he said from Brussels. Sabena said Flight SN203 from Brussels to Tel Aviv was diverted after an airline official in Tel Aviv received the warning as the plane was flying over the Adriatic. Mr. Du Bois said an anonymous caller said only that "there are four passengers on board who will hijack the plane within 30 minutes." He said there was no indication of who made the call. In Belgrade, police said airport officials said the Airbus 310 asked if it could land and was granted permission.

Volume 17 Number 5252

AMMAN MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1993, RAMADAN 15, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Kuwaiti speaker gets Iranian message

KUWAIT (AP) — Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Saddoun received an "important and urgent" letter from his Iranian counterpart Natiq Nouri, press reports said Sunday. Al Watan newspaper said the Iranian ambassador to Kuwait, Hussein Sadiqi, delivered the letter to Mr. Saddoun. The ambassador told the daily the letter was about cooperation between the two countries in the interest of Muslims worldwide, in addition to the issues of the 400 Palestinians Israel expelled to southern Lebanon and the suffering of Muslims in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina. The letter is another sign of post-Gulf war warming in relations between the emirate and the Islamic republic.

Gendarmerie officer killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Gunmen killed a sub-lieutenant of Algeria's para-military gendarmerie outside his brother's house in Algiers, the force said Sunday. A further three men were killed in two other weekend ambushes, taking to 23 the official death toll in the past week in a battle between the authorities and Muslim fundamentalists. The gendarmerie said Sub-Lieutenant Belad-jini Abdul Ouahab was gunned down in Djenane Mebrour, a southeastern suburb, on Saturday night. Two men were killed and a third wounded when gunmen opened fire on them in Ouled Yaich, the gendarmerie, quoted by the official news agency APS, said. Ouled Yaich is a small community, about 50 kilometres south of the capital. It is north of Blida, which "like Algiers, and other neighbouring regions, is under indefinite night curfew."

Far-right surges in German local poll

BONN (R) — The far-right Republicans made strong gains in local elections in the West German state of Hesse on Sunday, winning nearly 10 per cent of the vote in Frankfurt, computer projections showed. The Republicans were set to get between 7.7 and 8.2 per cent of the vote in 33 cities and districts in the prosperous state, projections by several television stations said. In Frankfurt, Germany's financial capital, they were poised to enter the city council at their first attempt with about 9.6 per cent of the vote, giving them around 10 of the 93 seats. The big losers were the Social Democrats (SPD), while Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) also slipped overall but looked set to replace the SPD as the largest party on Frankfurt's city council. The SPD plunged around 7.5 per cent from the last elections in 1989 to a projected 37.3 per cent of the vote while the CDU slid 2.4 per cent to 31.9 per cent.

Tehran mayor denounces pollution

NICOSIA (R) — Tehran residents each inhale an average of half a gramme of lead every day and pollution in the Iranian capital is "alarming," the city's mayor said Sunday. Gholamhossein Khatbaschi, quoted by Iran's IRNA news agency, blamed cars for 75 per cent pollution in the capital city of up to 10 million people. "Each Tehranian inhales an average of half a gramme of poisonous lead every day," he said at a tree-planting ceremony. IRNA did not say how he had arrived at the figure. Unleaded petrol is not available in Iran. Motorists, most with old cars, have to use the more polluting leaded variety.

Gulf states' budget deficits doubled

ABU DHABI (AP) — The combined 1992 budget deficits of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries doubled to \$7.7 billion in comparison with 1990, according to statistics made available Sunday. The statistics available from the Riyadh headquarters of the GCC, received by official authorities here, reported an increase of \$13.6 billion over the 1990 combined deficit of \$14.1 billion for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia's deficit was \$8 billion against \$6.6 billion in 1990 and Kuwait's was nearly \$16 billion against \$3.8 billion.

Afghan factions sign peace pact

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghanistan's rebel and government leaders agreed Sunday to a power-sharing plan to end the fighting in their homeland. Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his archrival, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a Muslim fundamentalist, will share power and appoint a cabinet, said presidential spokesman Mohammad Aziz Murad. A ceasefire is to take effect immediately.

But before the pact was signed, fighting erupted anew in the Afghan capital, Kabul, between well-armed rival factions. The agreement was reached in a marathon overnight negotiating session. It was seen largely as a face-saving pact for Pakistan, which has been mediating the peace talks.

After talking throughout the night Saturday, the leaders of all 10 groups that helped overthrow the communist regime last April accepted the pact. The Afghan leaders also agreed to form an election commission and hold a grand council within eight months to draft a constitution. The agreement envisions general elections in 1994.

Since the ouster of the Soviet-backed communists, a violent power struggle between rebel factions has killed an estimated 5,000 people and wounded thousands more. Thousands of rockets have rained on Kabul and an estimated 750,000 people have fled the city. During five days of talks last week, there was considerable pressure from the rebels' former allies — Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the architect of the peace talks, said the ceasefire will be monitored by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and representatives of each of the 10 rebel leaders. "We will ask the OIC to play a direct role in the peace process," he said. Throughout the talks, the most contentious cabinet post appeared to be that of defence minister. The agreement calls for the

announcement of a cabinet within 15 days. It also provides for the formation of a defence council comprised of two representatives of each of the 10 parties, which is to assume the responsibilities of the defence minister until the final cabinet is named.

The council will also begin forming a national army and take possession of all heavy weapons within range of Kabul.

But almost immediately after signing the agreement, Mr. Hekmatyar appeared to be challenging these provisions by insisting that he should appoint the defence minister.

Mr. Rabbani had wanted Ahmad Shah Masoud to remain as defence minister, which he was held since the insurgents overran Kabul in April.

But Hekmatyar argued that no single rebel group should control both the presidency and the Defence Ministry.

"It is my job to appoint the defence minister," Mr. Hekmatyar told reporters after signing the five-page document.

The Afghan leaders and Mr. Sharif were expected to travel to Saudi Arabia, the site of Islam's holiest shrines, to swear allegiance to the agreement.

More than a half-dozen ceasefires have been signed since the rebels took power 10 months ago, and none of the rebel groups seemed to pay attention to the latest truce.

In Kabul, government forces battled Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezbat-e-Islami and its Shiite ally, Hezbat-e-Wahdat, with heavy artillery in the eastern suburbs, witnesses said.

Even Pakistani officials seemed fatalistic about the prospects for another round of bloodshed. "All you can do is bring them together. You can't go to their country and stand over them," said Javed Akhtar, a spokesman for the prime minister's office.

Pakistan's foreign secretary, Mohammad Shaharyar Khan, said: "There are no safeguards. If after signing the agreement they decide to go back and start fighting again, there is nothing we can do."

Asked about prospects for a breakthrough, Mr. Levinson said, "Personally I'm not very optimistic. It could be two weeks." He said negotiators "have had no success in negotiations with the local (Serb) commanders ... they're awaiting orders from the top."

Mr. Morillon had said he was expecting to meet with the top Bosnian and Serb commanders on Monday.

But Barry Frewer, a U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo, said Serb Gen. Ratko Mladic and Gen. Sefir Halilovic, commander of Bosnian forces, have not given final commitments to attend.



Afghan leaders (sitting), along with representatives of several countries, pray after the signing ceremony Sunday of an Afghan agreement in Islamabad (AFP photo)

Bomb suspect's father says son totally innocent

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ZARQA — The father of a Jordanian who was arraigned in the U.S. Thursday for allegedly abetting the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York has strongly asserted that his son was incapable of committing such an act.

"We were shocked to hear the news of his arrest. We could not believe it," Amin Salameh, father of Mohammad Salameh, told the Jordan Times Sunday in his first public comment about the incident. Mohammad Salameh, 26, is held without bail in charges of abetting the bombing, which killed five people and wounded more than 1,000. He was arrested after investigations revealed that a van used in the bombing was rented by him.

The suspect left Jordan for the United States in February 1988 after receiving his bachelor degree in Islamic Law from the University of Jordan. He entered the U.S. on a five-year single-entry visit visa.

Though he was described by relatives contacted by the Jordan Times as a religious person, both his father and a former colleague said Mr. Salameh was a "moderate, humorous and sociable person."

He was not a fundamentalist, a student at the Faculty of Sharia, who studied with Mr. Salameh said. Amin Salameh said his son was not a member of any political organisation and a government spokesman said Saturday he had no criminal record in Jordan.

"He even condemned such organisations," Amin Salameh said in his moderate house in the middle-class industrial city of Zarqa.

Mohammad was born in Bedi village near Nabulus in the West Bank and grew up in a poor neighbourhood at the outskirts of Zarqa, about 20 kilometres southeast of Amman. He has four brothers and five sisters, who, except for one married sister, are still students.

A composed but obviously worried Amin Salameh said he had no doubts about the innocence of his son who, he said, went to the United States to pursue his education and find a job.

"My son is 100 per cent innocent," he said.

In late January, three Americans of Palestinian origin were arrested in the occupied territories and accused of aiding Hamas. One has since been released. The other two, also from the Chicago area, remain in jail but have yet to be charged with any crime.

The latest man detained was suspected of delivering funds to help rebuild Hamas after Israel's expulsion of 400 Palestinians accused as activists in headline Islamic groups, the radio said.

U.S. Consul Donna Sherman confirmed that a Palestinian-American man had been detained on Feb. 20 in the West Bank. She said the U.S. privacy law prohibited her from releasing his name or other personal information.

Mrs. Sherman said the U.S. consulate had been informed of the detention by the Israeli government on March 1 and had visited the man last Thursday.

The two Arab-Americans who remain jailed are Mohammad

Salah, 39, and Mohammad Jarad, 36. They were arrested Jan. 25 and have been ordered held by military judges while accusations against them are investigated.

Israeli officials maintain the two also came to Israel to help rebuild Hamas following the expulsions.

When the initial arrests occurred, Israel was facing international condemnation over its mass expulsion of the Palestinians. At the time, some Israeli officials and media reports said Hamas was being run from the United States, an allegation denied by U.S. officials.

On Sunday, Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid sought to justify the expulsions through the bombing at the World Trade Centre in New York, saying the bombing would bring more understanding of Israel's actions by Americans.

"Perhaps they can better understand that this government, which explicitly wants peace, sometimes finds itself under circumstances where it has to deport even 400 people," Mr. Sarid told Israeli Radio.

Apparently referring to Hamas, Mr. Sarid said Israel was dealing with an organisation that is out of the ordinary and that therefore the actions against it must also be out of the ordinary.

Mohammad Salameh, a Jordanian of Palestinian origin, has been arrested as a suspect in the bombing, but American officials have not yet said what Mr. Salameh's motives were.

Israel ends siege of Gaza today

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel will reopen the occupied Gaza Strip early Monday, almost a week after it was sealed off following the fatal stabbing by a Gazan of two Israelis in Tel Aviv.

"The closure on Gaza will be lifted on Monday at 3 a.m. (0100 GMT)," an Israeli army spokesman said.

In Gaza City Sunday, troops shot and wounded a Palestinian in the leg when the car he was riding in did not stop at a road-block.

Earlier, the army lifted a curfew from the Gaza Strip town of Rafah. It imposed the curfew last Tuesday when Palestinians stabbed and stoned to death an Israeli who mistakenly drove into a refugee camp in the town.

Monday's Tel Aviv stabbing triggered the sealing off of the strip.

The move barred the 850,000 Palestinians living in the strip from entering Israel. About 30,000 Palestinian labourers from there work in the Jewish state.

Military officials and Palestinian sources said troops captured Hamato Al Satary, Gaza Strip commander of the Red Eagles, a militant group affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, on Sunday.

Military officials said Satary was captured on Burei refugee camp carrying a gun. Palestinian sources said Satary had been wanted by Israel for two years.

Arab-Israeli bloodshed has surged since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin expelled to Lebanon 415 alleged militants in December.

Israel holds another Palestinian-American

TEL AVIV (AP) — Another Arab-American has been arrested by Israeli authorities for suspected links to the headline Muslim movement Hamas, Israel Radio reported Sunday.

Arab reports identified the man as Anwar Hamdan, 33, from the Chicago area. Israeli security forces arrested last week at his house in the occupied West Bank town of Al Bireh on suspicion of assisting Hamas, the reports said.

Defence ministry spokesman Oded Ben Ami confirmed that an American citizen was detained last week but would give no other information.

In late January, three Americans of Palestinian origin were arrested in the occupied territories and accused of aiding Hamas. One has since been released. The other two, also from the Chicago area, remain in jail but have yet to be charged with any crime.

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By Mr. Koresch's account, 17 children and 90 adults are inside the compound surrounded by more than 400 federal agents and police.

Mr. Ricks said negotiations with the 33-year-old self-proclaimed Messiah were "disappointing... we have hit some what of a stalemate."

Mr. Koresch continued to say he will walk out but was still waiting for a message from God.

It was not clear if the "total release" Mr. Ricks mentioned meant the other cultists would not be charged with committing a crime or whether it involved the way in which they would leave the compound.

"We offered him what we thought was a reasonable compromise," that included the "total release of all the people inside," Mr. Ricks said at a news conference. "That was rejected."

(Continued on page 5)

American blamed for death of three Somalis in Mogadishu

By Paul Alexander
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Residents of the Hammer Jadidi district had just finished a day of fasting when the first shots rang out. Witnesses said the ensuing firefight, involving American troops, left three people dead and two wounded.

The soldiers were accused of shooting indiscriminately in the Friday night incident and fleeing without helping the injured, including a 12-year-old boy who was hit twice in the back.

"They came to our country and they would save us. Now they are killing us," said Abdi Hassan, a witness who took an Associated Press reporter and photographer to see the blood-stained sidewalk and pock-marked buildings.

But U.S. officials defended the patrol, saying one of their two vehicles was hit several times.

"The patrol took fire. The patrol returned fire. The patrol got the hell out of there," said Air Force Captain Joe Davis, a U.S. military spokesman. "If any Somalis got killed, they're the ones who shot first."

All shootings involving U.S.

troops are routinely investigated. In another incident, a hearing is being held to determine whether a Marine should be court-martialed for shooting and wounding two teenagers after one tried to steal his sunglasses.

The shooting in the Hammer Jadidi neighbourhood was the most serious in two days of sporadic violence.

Military authorities in Paris said two French soldiers were killed in a road accident Saturday between Mogadishu and Baidoa. They were the first French troops to die in the Somalia intervention.

On Saturday night, a U.S. Marine died of what military officials said was an "apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound," becoming the seventh American to lose his life in Operation Restore Hope.

The Marine's name was withheld pending notification of relatives, said Marine Colonel Fred Peck.

In a brief statement, Col. Peck said the Marine apparently shot himself at Mogadishu soccer stadium as the Marines use as a base. Col. Peck said the shooting did not appear to be accidental and would be investigated.

In violence Friday, U.S. troops killed two other Somalis in separate incidents, and two children were injured — one seriously when a hand grenade they were playing with exploded.

The Hammer Jadidi residents said people were outside Friday evening when looters entered a nearby market and fired shots. They said the Marines, on patrol nearby, opened fire.

It was unclear who shot whom. But when the gunfire was over, five casualties were taken to Benadir Hospital. A nurse, speaking on condition of anonymity, said three were dead on arrival. Residents said others may have died.

"Everybody was screaming," Hassan said. "I tried to escape. I laid down."

Abuker Abdullah Weytije, 22, lay dazed in a bare bunk at the hospital, a huge bandage covering the left side of his face. A bullet hit beside his left eye and exited behind his ear.

"While we were playing cards, we heard the bullets," said Hassan Ahmad Haji, a friend of Mr. Weytije who was at the bedside. "The army had not yet reached us. He tried to escape, but when he stood up, he was shot."

A 12-year-old boy, Abdi Ali



A man guides his donkey-drawn wagon by a roadblock manned by Nigerian forces in Mogadishu (AFP photo)

Hassan, was injured when he was hit twice in the back by bullets or fragments. His father said the youth had been home, walking to his room, when he was hit.

"He fell down and cried," the father said. "I rented a car to take him to the hospital."

The official U.S. report of the incident read: "Last night at 2010 (hours), a two-vehicle patrol was

moving east to west one kilometre south of the stadium when they received six bursts of automatic fire from alleys and rooftops in the area.

"The convoy returned fire and broke contact. There were no U.S. casualties, although several rounds struck the vehicle. The motivation for the attack is unknown."

The neighbourhood residents

said that while they were upset over the deaths and injuries, they were even more angry that no one came to talk with them Saturday. They threw stones at several convoys.

The U.S.-led coalition of military forces arrived in Somalia on Dec. 9 to try to restore order in the chaotic country and protect relief aid for the country's starving.

Sudanese held as suspect in Cairo cafe bombing

CAIRO (AP) — Police arrested a Sudanese man trying to leave Egypt and held him on suspicion of involvement in a bomb attack at a crowded coffee shop that killed three people, the government news agency reported Sunday.

Major General Hussein Tewfik, security chief of Aswan, told the Middle East News Agency (MENA) that Khaled Haroun Mansour was intercepted as he left the southern resort for Sudan.

Ferries ply routes on Lake Nasser, the world's largest man-made lake, from Aswan, 980 kilometres south of Cairo, to Wadi Halfa just inside Sudan.

Mr. Mansour is a suspect in the Feb. 26 bombing of the Wadi Al Nil coffee shop in central Cairo, in which a Sudanese, a Turk and one Egyptian died.

A bomb packed with nails exploded amid the coffee shop's Egyptian and foreign clientele. In addition to the three dead, 16 were wounded including two Americans, a Frenchman and a Canadian.

The next day, Muslim extremists claimed responsibility and vowed to "continue the vendetta with the government."

The government has accused Sudan of exporting Muslim extremists to Egypt. At least one Sudanese was indicted in another case involving religious extremists, but he is at large.

The brief MENA report said nothing about evidence the government holds against the Sudanese suspect.

The coffee shop was one of a chain owned by an Egyptian-Sudanese family from Aswan. The arrest of a Sudanese raises speculation the explosion could have involved a personal vendetta, which are common in southern Egypt.

Muslim extremists Saturday killed two policemen and wounded a third in separate clashes in southern Egypt, a police official said.

In Aswan, gunmen killed a policeman guarding a church and seriously wounded another before seizing the security men's weapons and fleeing, a police officer said.

In Assiut, a stronghold of Muslim extremists, another policeman was killed in a shootout with suspected extremists.

Another police force killed a suspected extremist Friday while searching Safad, a village in Assiut province.

Israel insists U.N. worker failed to help tax collector

TEL AVIV (AP) — A cabinet member Sunday threatened that Israeli would lodge a complaint over allegations that a U.N. worker failed to intervene when he witnessed the slaying of an Israeli in the occupied Gaza Strip.

But Israeli military and foreign ministry officials said they have not completed an investigation of the accusations concerning the March 2 stoning and shooting death of Israeli debt collector Yehoshua Weisbrod.

A spokesman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which handles aid to Palestinian refugees, has denied the agency's employees ignored the attack on Weisbrod.

The controversy flared after Gaza military commander Brigadier General Yom Tov Samya accused officials of the UNRWA Saturday of ignoring the attack that occurred in a refugee camp in Rafah on the southern edge of Gaza.

Weisbrod, 44, a debt collector for a gas company, had taken a wrong turn into the camp while headed elsewhere in Gaza. It was a day of high tensions because Gazans were barred from reaching jobs in Israel after the fatal stabbings of two Israelis in Tel Aviv by a Gazan a day earlier.

Gen. Samya told Israel Radio

that U.N. relief workers, including Katharine Striker, a refugee affairs officer, saw a crowd attack Weisbrod and left the scene without trying to intervene or alert soldiers at a nearby outpost.

UNRWA spokesman Rolf van Uye confirmed the agency employee was at the scene. But he said that when he spotted the assault on an Israeli vehicle and a motionless body inside, she "repeatedly tried to get close but was prevented from doing so by the crowd."

She then tried to contact U.N. headquarters in Gaza and also went to the nearest U.N. building to report the incident, Van Uye said on the radio Sunday.

He said she then headed back to the scene, arriving as Israeli soldiers did.

The issue came up at the weekly Israeli cabinet meeting. Several Israeli officials complained the woman failed to contact the army directly so they could have tried to rescue Weisbrod, media reports said.

Housing Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer, a former military adviser on the occupied territories, said on the radio after the meeting that he thought the U.N. agency acted improperly.

The foreign minister, Ben Eliezer added, "will certainly lodge a complaint about it with the U.N."

Israelis searched for Scuds in Iraq during war — report

LONDON (AP) — Israeli intelligence agents operated in western Iraq during the Gulf war, trying to spot Scud missiles aimed at Israel, the Sunday Times reported.

The newspaper's front-page story also said the five Israeli soldiers killed by a stray missile during a training exercise in November were rehearsing to assassinate Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Previous reports have said the soldiers were training to attack the Muslim fundamentalist group, Hizbollah, in South Lebanon. Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat claimed they were trying to kill him.

Soldiers involved in both the assassination plot and the hunt for Scud missiles belonged to Sayaret Matkal, a branch of military intelligence specialising in reconnaissance missions behind enemy lines, the Sunday Times said. The report was based on unnamed sources.

The newspaper gave no other details of the previously unknown Israeli search for Soviet-supplied Scud missiles inside Iraq during the war. Iraq is believed to still have about 200 missiles of the type that were used against Israel and Saudi Arabia.

It said Israel had intelligence from inside Iraq that made mili-

tary commanders "100 per cent sure" they would be able to hit President Saddam.

"That accident saved Saddam's life," quoting an unnamed source.

Five soldiers died during the training exercise at the remote Tze'elim army base in the desert on Nov. 5 after being struck by a stray missile.

The Sunday Times said it was a newly-developed, body-heat seeking missile that would have been fired at President Saddam. It said the soldiers were killed during the final rehearsal for the operation.

The accident led to the assassination attempt being cancelled, the newspaper said. The plot was based on a single, specific opportunity to kill President Saddam and could not be completed without the dead soldiers, it said.

Several foreign newspapers reported in late November that the Nov. 5 accident was a rehearsal for a military mission. The Miami Herald quoted sources as saying the aim of the mission would have been to assassinate Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Lebanese Shiite Muslim movement Hizbollah.

The incident caused a controversy because Israeli newspapers were censored from publishing the names of high-ranking officers who were present when the accident occurred.

Iran denies terrorism charge

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's foreign ministry condemned acts of terrorism Sunday and denied U.S. State Department claims that Tehran sponsored such deeds, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the ministry issued a statement after an "escalation of anti-Iran propaganda" following the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York.

On Friday, a week after the bombing, the State Department called Iran "the world's leading state supporter of terrorism and principal backer of extremist Islamic and Palestinian groups."

Tehran Radio said Saturday that the comment indicated the groundwork was being laid for blaming Iran for the bombing.

The prime suspect has been described as a Muslim fundamentalist.

The foreign ministry said: "Such allegations against Iran are brought up while the U.S. administration, with its unparagon support for the Zionist regime... shoulders the responsibility for the massacre, suppression, displacement and homelessness of the oppressed Palestinian and Lebanese nations."

It also accused the United States of supporting oppressive governments and harbouring groups such as the Mujaheddin-e-Khalq, an Iranian dissident group involved in attacks on Iranian officials after falling out with



Hashemi Rafsanjani

the Islamic revolutionary government.

"The U.S. administration, as a supporter of such suppressive regimes and terrorist organisations, cannot cover up its past functions and its present instigations by levelling charges against Iran, which has always been a victim of terrorist acts itself," the statement said.

It said the "sabotage and interventionist activities" of intelligence agencies were well known and that accusations against Iran from Western nations stemmed from those countries "being influenced by Zionist circles."

Egypt says hardline sheikh faces charges if he returns

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's foreign minister said Sunday that if the United States deports fundamentalist preacher Omar Abdul Rahman to Egypt, he would face criminal charges at home.

Amr Musa's comment, in an interview with the Associated Press, was the first Egyptian confirmation that the government is prepared to level additional charges against Sheikh Abdul Rahman. Egyptian courts acquitted the blind cleric three times of terrorism-related crimes before he left his native land to eventually settle in New Jersey.

Mohammad A. Salameh, said to be a member of Sheikh Abdul Rahman's Islamic fundamentalist congregation in Jersey City, has been charged in the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman condemned that bombing. But he preaches violence against anyone who stands in the way of fundamentalist Islam.

Violence initiated by Egyptian radicals has resulted in 95 deaths in the past 15 months, including three Western tourists killed by extremists. The government claims that their spiritual guidance and some of their money came from Sheikh Abdul Rahman.

The U.S. government is pressing a deportation case against

Sheikh Abdul Rahman, 54, on grounds he concealed on his visa application an Egyptian conviction for falsifying a cheque.

The Egyptian foreign minister, whose country is a close friend of the United States, said Cairo would have to accept Sheikh Abdul Rahman if no other country wants him. If that happens, Mr. Musa said: "There has to be charges filed against him here."

"Bad cheques and things like that, personal things, I don't know about," Mr. Musa said. "But this instigating violence and promoting the use of force and use of violent means against the government, against society, all those things will be considered."

The foreign minister said other officials would have to determine precise charges against Sheikh Abdul Rahman, and that Egypt had not decided whether to try to extradite him.

"The suspicion is there, that there is some kind of coordination" by Islamic militants to launch a new "international campaign of terror," he said. He could not elaborate "because it is only a suspicion."

But Mr. Musa, a Muslim who is observing the annual Ramadan fast, added: "We resent here the notion in certain European and American newspapers that terrorism is (inherently) linked to Islam, which is definitely defaming one of the major religions."

Violence renews Israeli question: What to do with Gaza?

TEL AVIV (AP) — The debate over Israel's occupation of the crowded, impoverished Gaza Strip has reemerged after three Israelis were killed by Gazans last week.

A third of Israelis advocate immediate, unilateral withdrawal, a poll taken last week by the daily Maariv showed. Another 34 per cent support withdrawal as part of an overall peace settlement.

Just 23 per cent say Israel should remain in Gaza for now, according to the poll of 850 people aged 18 or older. No margin of error was released.

"There is nothing there for us," Health Minister Haim Ramon said following the killings. "We are allowing the

Palestinians to force us to stay there." He advocated a pullout within two years.

Workers from Gaza were blocked from entering Israel for a week after a 19-year-old Palestinian from the strip killed two Israelis and wounded nine in a stabbing spree Monday in Tel Aviv. On Tuesday, Yehoshua Weisbrod was lynched when he made a wrong turn into the Rafah refugee camp in the strip.

The army clamped a curfew on the camp on Wednesday and Israel radio said some 100 Palestinians were detained for questioning.

While violence has also increased in the occupied West Bank which was seized with Gaza in the 1967 Middle East war — the question of what

to do with Gaza dominated news reports throughout the week.

The narrow strip along the Mediterranean Sea is home to about 800,000 Palestinians. They depend on jobs in Israel because the local economy is moribund.

In a Wednesday editorial, the daily Yedioth Ahronoth questioned when Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would address his campaign pledge "to get Gaza off the streets of Tel Aviv."

The widow of Natan Azariya, one of the victims in the Tel Aviv attack, called on authorities to seal off the strip. But others said cutting off Gaza would only increase violence aimed at Israel.

Housing Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer said it

would be easier for Israel to withdraw from the West Bank, where Palestinians could cross into Jordan for work. In Gaza, he asked, "where is their outlet — the sea?"

But former Foreign Minister David Levy of the opposition Likud Party said a pullout would allow extremists to use Gaza to launch attacks against Israel.

David Ranen, a former senior official in Israel's general security service, agreed, pointing out that effectively abandoning Gaza's refugee camps in the late 1960s on Israeli increased.

But the brother of a man lynched in Gaza in 1990 said pulling out of Gaza was the

only solution he could see preventing such incidents in the future.

"I dream of standing next to the mosque where he was killed and opening up with a sub-machinegun," said Giora Pomerantz, whose brother, Amnon, was beaten and burned to death in Al Bureij refugee camp.

"But we must make peace with the Arabs, give them their land and we will keep ours," Mr. Pomerantz told Israel TV Friday.

Mr. Rabin while not addressing calls for withdrawal, has said he does not support a blanket, indefinite closure of Gaza. He has also resisted calls for Israel to drop out of Arab-Israeli peace talks until violence is halted.

"It is preferable that the Gaza Strip and the West Bank constitute a single unit... a long-term solution in Gaza promotes a long-term arrangement in the West Bank," wrote Yossi Belkin, the deputy foreign minister, in a commentary in Maariv.

Ariel Manor, cabinet secretary in the right-wing government of the late Prime Minister Menachem Begin, said Israel had tried everything but peace to stop Palestinian attacks on its citizens.

"We have not tried to see how the Palestinians would act under peace conditions when they will have something to lose if they violate it," Mr. Manor wrote in Wednesday's Yedioth Ahronoth.

1 wounded in Beirut shootout

BEIRUT (AP) — One civilian has been wounded in Beirut in a shootout between rival Shiite Muslim militiamen of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah and the Syrian-backed Amal, an Amal spokesman said Sunday.

The spokesman, who refused to be identified, said the violence was triggered by an exchange of insults between a Hizbollah activist and a member of Amal Saturday evening in south Beirut's Tayyouneh area.

He said a group of Hizbollahs later opened up briefly with machine-gun fire at the offices of Amal in the nearby Shiyah neighbourhood, wounding a civilian.

The spokesman said the army deployed troops in the rain-drenched area to restore order. Telephone calls to Hizbollah's press office for comment went unanswered.

The two groups engaged from 1987-1990 in an on-again off-

again power struggle for the control of Lebanon's 1.2 million Shi'ites, who make up the country's largest single sect.

Hizbollah is the standard bearer of Iran's brand of Shiite Muslim fundamentalism while Amal is more secular.

Although the government has disarmed many militias that fought in Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war, various militias still retain some of their light arms.

The army command, seeking to dispel worries about its ability to maintain law and order, said in a statement Sunday the hostilities occurred during a brief vacuum resulting from a rotation of troops.

The communique said the army was hunting down 10 irregulars from the two factions who took part in the shootout and stressed it will not "hesitate to quell harshly any disorders."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:30	Emigrants
19:00	News in French
19:15	Magazine Sportif
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Step by Step
21:10	Martin Bay
22:00	News in English
22:30	Jordan Weekly
22:40	Victims

PRAYER TIMES

06:35	Fajr
12:50	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
15:47	Asr
17:42	Maghrib
18:53	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nareath Church Swellish, Tel. 510740
 Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785
 St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
 De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

<p>Terrace Church Tel: 622266 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541 Anglican Church Tel. 628266 Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331 Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561 St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751 Assumption International Church Tel. 625326 Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 634932 Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691</p> <p>WEATHER</p> <p>Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.</p> <p>Jordan will remain under the effect of the cold fronts accompanying a depression centred over Turkey. Therefore, it will continue to be partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered showers of rain. Winds will be northerly to fresh. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy and winds will be southerly to fresh and sea rough.</p> <p>Amman Min./Max. temp. 4/11</p>	<p>14/23 Decree 4/14 Jordan Valley 10/20</p> <p>Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 69 per cent, Amman 22 per cent.</p> <p>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</p> <p>NIGHT DUTY</p> <p>AMMAN: Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh 736011 Dr. Mohammad Al Azem 732971 Dr. Youssef Eida 694916 Dr. Youssef Samour 615648 First pharmacy 661912 Fardous pharmacy 778336 Al Ahsan pharmacy 637055 Nafoud pharmacy 626072 Al Salim pharmacy 636730 Youssef pharmacy 644945 Shamsuddeen pharmacy 637680 Nafoud pharmacy 626072 Najib pharmacy 847632</p> <p>AMMAN: Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh 736011 Dr. Mohammad Al Azem 732971 Dr. Youssef Eida 694916 Dr. Youssef Samour 615648 First pharmacy 661912 Fardous pharmacy 778336 Al Ahsan pharmacy 637055 Nafoud pharmacy 626072 Al Salim pharmacy 636730 Youssef pharmacy 644945 Shamsuddeen pharmacy 637680 Nafoud pharmacy 626072 Najib pharmacy 847632</p>
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EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Police	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	843402
Public Security Department	630021
Hotel Complaints	616280
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	637111
Complaints	897467
Assessment Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	610230
Central Amman Telephone	610230
Repairs	623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53220-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15	Sanaa (RJ)
07:30	Jeddah (RJ)
08:15	Cairo, Amman (RJ)
08:15	Riyadh (RJ)
08:20	Damascus (RJ)
08:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00	New Delhi (RJ)
10:15	Beirut (RJ)
10:45	Cairo (RJ)
17:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
 Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
 Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816
 Al-Hilal Maternity, J. Amn 642412
 Jabel Amman Maternity 642362
 Malhas, J. Amman 636149
 Palestine, Shamsi 664174
 Shamsi Hospital 669131
 Al-Munawwar Hospital 843843
 University Hospital 667227
 The Islamic, Abdal 666127
 Al-Hilal, Abdal 666146
 Bailem, Al-Muhajirun 771013
 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
 Army, Marha 891611/15
 Queen Alia Hospital 802240/20
 Amal Hospital 674155
 ZARQA:
 Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)98323
 Zarqa National Hospital (09)90050
 Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98732
 Al-Ramadan Hospital (09)99990

FINANCIAL MARKETS

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

AMMAN
 End of last week five per cent decline in Amman unexpectedly. A dollar was 1.25 against the Syrian pound. As the dollar fell, the Syrian pound fell. The Syrian pound fell. The Syrian pound fell.

NEW YORK CLOSING DOLLAR

Swiss Franc	1.48
Japanese Yen	108.50
French Franc	6.55
German Mark	1.36
Italian Lira	1.36
Spanish Peseta	166.60
British Pound	1.50
US Dollar	1.00

CURRENCY

Swiss Franc 1.48
 Japanese Yen 108.50
 French Franc 6.55
 German Mark 1.36
 Italian Lira 1.36
 Spanish Peseta 166.60
 British Pound 1.50
 US Dollar 1.00

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in \$/kg per kg

Apple	700/530
Banana	700/700
Beans (Mankama)	600/640
Beans	100/100
Cabbage	100/100
Carrot	100/100
Corn (large)	180/120
Corn (small)	200/150
Cumbers (large)	150/100
Cumbers (small)	300/180
Eggplant	280/180
Garlic	800/600
Grapes (red)	300/200
Lemon	200/150
Melon (large)	300/200
Melon (small)	440/350
Mint	300/200
Onion (dry)	100/100
Onion (green)	210/180
Orange	480/180
Pepper (hot)	800/600
Pepper (sweet)	600/400
Potato	220/140
Tomato	120/80
Spinach	120/80

NHF unveils major development project, marking International Women's day

AMMAN (J.T.) — As Jordan marks International Women's Day Monday, Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) unveiled an ambitious project for the advancement of women's status in the Kingdom, in cooperation with concerned national and international organisations.

The project, entitled "Building National Capacity in Women in Development," seeks to promote women's equal participation in the development process of Jordan, through the establishment of a Jordanian human and institutional capacity in gathering and disseminating gender-sensitive data relating to development.

The project also seeks to enhance the capacity of the different Jordanian agencies concerned with development and women in development, to establish, implement and monitor gender-sensitive policies and programmes.

The proposed project also includes training on gender-sensitive data collection and analysis, in addition to a communication component to raise public awareness of the importance of greater women's participation in the development process, and to create concrete practices on the issue.

It also emphasises networking (exchanges of information and expertise) among different women's development groups and organisations under the NHF umbrella.

A proposal has been submitted for funding one-fifth of the \$400,000 project by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), while NHF will seek to secure the remainder (\$320,000) through other donors and U.N. agencies.

NHF women emphasises the centrality of integrating women, especially rural and underprivileged women, into the socio-economic development process to enhance their total quality of life within their families and communities.

The foundation does that through socio-economic schemes aimed at empowering women to become active participants in their own development, informed decision makers in their homes and communities, and trained income-earners in their societies.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, Chairperson of the NHF board of trustees, has taken the lead in promoting such a strategy through the foundation's projects and programmes and through national groups interested in women's affairs.

In Feb. 1992, Queen Noor took part in the Geneva Summit on the Advancement of Rural Women sponsored by the International

Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). A Geneva Declaration issued by the summit called on countries to initiate programmes conducive to women's participation in the development process, especially in rural areas.

The declaration has received support from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the Non-Aligned Summit and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

Jordan is a member of IFAD's International Steering Committee, a follow-up body representing different regions of the world and set up to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Geneva Declaration.

NHF is an active member of the National Committee for Women, established under the chairmanship of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, to increase women's participation in the labour force, to promote women's rights and political participation and to improve their social status.

This year, NHF will convene a specialised seminar on the Empowerment of Rural Women to develop a master plan for rural women's development, to be later presented to a national conference on women. These gatherings are in preparation for Jordan's participation in the 1995 U.N. Conference on Women.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation, through its Quality of Life and Women in Development Projects, as well as through the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, works to promote fuller women's participation and representation in national development by enabling them to become informed decision makers, trained income earners and self-reliant.

This is realised through training in leadership, planning, management and implementation of income-generating schemes, family and civic affairs and literacy.

By 1992, about 15,000 individuals had directly and indirectly benefited from six schemes implemented by the Women in Development Project in bee-keeping and honey production, leather stitching, garment production, medicinal herbs, rabbit raising and production of dolls in traditional costumes.

During the same period, about 10,000 others had also benefited directly and indirectly from the Quality of Life Project, implemented in eight communities throughout Jordan. Another 740 women from the Jordan Design and Trade Centre had received training, technical and marketing assistance.

Queen addresses officials, travel industry in Berlin

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor, who arrived in Berlin Saturday to participate in the opening of Berlin's International Tourism Exchange, addressed an audience of 3,000 government representatives and travel professionals from around the world about tourism in the Middle East.

"For Jordan and the Middle East, tourism and travel are increasingly important economic activities, but they are much more than that — hospitality to friends and strangers alike is deeply ingrained in our Arab Islamic culture and traditions," the Queen said.

Speaking about her projects in Jordan with village communities whose work contributes to the promotion of tourism, the Queen said the people of these communities "appreciate the income they earn from tourism." But, she added, "they place equal or greater value on the nonmaterial aspects of tourism-enlightening

exchanges with people of other countries and their pride in belonging to an ancient culture and a modern country that attracts visitors from the four corners of the earth."

Queen Noor concluded her speech by exhorting the audience "to make the business of travel and tourism a bedrock of international understanding, tolerance and peace."

She added, "I urge you to continue to capture the millions of small, magical moments when people from different cultures meet, share a handshake and a smile and transform them into something more lasting."

On Sunday the Queen visited the East German city of Potsdam, where she toured Sans Souci Palace, an 18th century palace built for Prussian monarch King Frederick II. She then visited Cecilienhof Palace, the site of the signing of the 1945 Potsdam

agreement dividing Germany into four zones. Her Majesty was accompanied by the president of the Senate of the state of Brandenburg, as well as by Jordanian officials.

In the evening the Queen addressed the Society for Foreign Politics, where she spoke about recent socio-political developments in Jordan.

"In Jordan, we responded to our challenging regional circumstances by focusing intensely on human development as the long-term antidote to our prevailing pressures," the Queen said.

By the late 1980s, she added, "we recognised that we could only overcome our modern legacy of regional conflicts and economic disparities by promoting political values and systems that could transform our successful national development into a more stable and equitable regional order."

NES parents continue drive against higher fees

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A meeting of parents and the administration of the New English School (NES) has produced an interim agreement to freeze until March 20 an increase in tuition fees and transportation charges the school is demanding with effect from the 1993-94 scholastic term.

At the same time, faced with the prospect of being cornered into paying higher fees if their children were to continue school, parents are also trying to reach a speedier solution to their dispute with the school management over the 35 to 50 per cent hike.

A representative committee of parents met with the school administration Saturday. But no settlement could be reached since the chairman of the board of directors of the school, said Al Turk, who is the effective owner, remains on vacation abroad.

"It was decided at the meeting that the school will freeze (the increases) until March 20, when Mr. Turk will be back in Jordan and we can discuss the issue with him," said Ziad Murad, a member of the committee.

In the meantime, he said, the committee was drafting a memorandum to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Education and the two Houses of Parliament.

Mr. Murad did not say what specific action the committee was seeking from the executive and legislative authorities.

Several parents said, meanwhile, that if a meeting with Mr. Turk does not produce a compromise solution, then the pa-

rents would face a dilemma: They would find it difficult to move their children to other institutions since most schools would have completed their registration and admission for new students by the third-fourth week of March.

"It is a 'catch-22' situation," said one of the parents. "If we insist on our position, the school could tell us to remove our children if we don't like to pay the higher fees. And by then it will be too late for us to look for other schools."

"If we want to keep our children at NES, then we have to pay the registration fees now, which implies that we accept the fees with the increases" of up to 50 per cent for some grades, she said.

"The unity of parents is the most significant element now," explained the parent, who said she had three of her children at the NES.

"In general there seems to be enough solidarity among the parents to ensure that none of them break ranks and pay registration fees to NES as long as the dispute remains unsettled."

During Tuesday's meeting, however, the school administration promised to ensure that the option of parents to retain their students at NES would remain open until the end of the month, parents said.

In return, parents were asked to pay the regular third quarter fees for the 1992-93 term due this month.

Observers said that the piffal in official intervention in the dispute is that it opens the door for

the government to interfere in the financial aspects of private schools — an area so far left untouched by the executive authority.

If a formal request is submitted by parents, then the government will take "a closer look" at the situation, said a senior official, implying that the government action "may not exactly please the administration."

Present legislation does not allow for government intervention in the financial affairs of private schools, but student protest actions — such as a two-hour strike staged by NES secondary level students three weeks ago — would bring in the executive authority.

At the same time, many parents believe that the government could apply subtle pressure on the NES to reach an amicable solution to the dispute.

"There are dozens of avenues that the government can use to convince the school of accepting a just solution to the problem," said another parent.

The NES stand-off has drawn high-level interest and concern from other private schools which fear the issue could have an adverse impact on their administrative and financial freedom.

"We hope the NES administration ends the dispute without much fanfare and publicity," said a senior official at another leading private school in Jordan.

If the NES dispute remains unsettled and invites official intervention, said the official, "it will be a bad precedent for all private schools in the country."

Officials discuss marketing local products in Germany

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A German delegation now visiting Jordan is trying to identify Jordanian products that could be marketed in Germany in line with the Kingdom's quest to increase its exports and barter trade, a senior German diplomat said Sunday.

The delegation, headed by the former German ambassador to Jordan, Herwig Bartels, who is now head of the Middle East desk at the German Foreign Ministry, held talks on Sunday with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and Minister of Trade and Industry Abdullah Ensour.

The main objective of the delegation's visit is to identify areas of economic cooperation with particular focus on Jordanian exports to Germany," said Matthias Meyer, charge d'affaires at the German embassy here.

The delegation's talks with Dr. Abu Jaber focused on the Middle East peace process as well as German-Jordanian economic relations and cooperation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

"The two sides exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern," Petra said.

The agency quoted Dr. Bartels as describing Jordanian-German cooperation as excellent and predicting that bilateral relations would continue to be strengthened in view of Jordan's important role in the region and the Middle East peace process.

Dr. Bartels also pledged his country's continued support for Jordan.

Jordan wants to increase its traditional exports — such as fertilisers, phosphates etc. — and this was a point raised during the recent visit to Germany by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Mr. Fariz. Mr. Meyer told the Jordan Times.

The delegation's talks here came as a follow-up to the discussions the Crown Prince had with German leaders. Mr. Meyer said, noting that a delegation representing the Jordan Trade Association (JTA) will be visiting Germany soon for the same purposes.

The balance of trade is heavily in favour of Germany, whose exports to Jordan — mostly vehicles, industrial equipment and some luxury products — totalled JD 33 million in 1991, while the Kingdom's exports to Germany — agricultural produce, fertilisers, leather goods, etc. — were worth JD 1.5 million.

In 1992, the figures might have gone by a "little bit," Mr. Meyer said.

Dr. Bartels, whose tenure as ambassador to Jordan ended two years ago, also held two hours of separate political discussions with Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday.

According to Mr. Meyer, the talks included a "general review of the Middle East peace process and how Germany could help the ongoing efforts" to reactivate the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Another subject tackled by the delegation was tourism, which was reviewed during a meeting with the acting Minister of Tourism, Abdul Karim Kabarti.

"The delegation explored possibilities of how Germany could further help tourism in Jordan," Mr. Meyer said, recalling that his country had extended assistance to the Kingdom to improve tourism facilities in the past.

German economic assistance to Jordan was not part of the talks the delegation held here, Mr. Meyer said.

Germany, one of Jordan's major donor countries, gave the Kingdom an outright grant of 35 million deutschemarks (around JD 15 million) in 1992 and extended technical assistance worth 17 million deutschemarks (JD 7 million) in 1993.

Mr. Meyer said assistance for Jordan for the year 1993 was not decided yet, and that discussions were continuing. The assistance comes over and above Germany's regular contribution to the European Commission budget which has separate allocations for aid to Jordan.

Among the areas of the assistance are water supply networks and improvement of agriculture, Mr. Meyer said.

Germany was among the first countries to provide financial assistance — close to \$300 million — to Jordan to offset the losses the Kingdom suffered as a result of the Gulf crisis sparked by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Strategic Studies Centre plans population meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan is preparing for a major conference on population transformations and trends and development policies scheduled for May.

The conference, to be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, will be attended by a select group of population specialists and United Nations experts, in addition to representatives of specialised institutions in foreign countries and Jordanian universities, according to a statement issued Sunday.

The statement said the conference will review a total of 17 working papers in six separate sessions to be held during the two days of deliberations.

The first session will deal with population and developing hu-

man resources, covering topics related to Jordan's needs for skilled labour to the year 2000, and the country's vocational training and higher education needs.

The second session will review working papers that discuss natural resources versus population growth and the effects of the increase in population on energy consumption and the ecology.

The changes in population trends and their effects on Jordanian society will be the focus of the third session. Here participants will review development strategies, people's migrations, the consequences of the Gulf crisis on Jordan in terms of population, social problems resulting from population growth and other relevant topics.

The fourth session will tackle the question of population growth versus national security in Jordan. Papers on this topic will deal with the effects of population structure on foreign policy, state security and security challenges, as well as democratic trends.

Session five will focus attention on Jordanian's national population policies. Papers to be reviewed in this session are expected to provide criticism of the present trends, and also forecasts about population in Jordan. The papers will also deal with effects of birth spacing, fertility and related issues.

The sixth and final session will provide a forum for the participants to present their remarks on topics discussed at the earlier sessions.

Weather to ease up next week

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cold air mass which is centred over Turkey will continue to affect Jordan in the next two days, bringing scattered showers and causing lower than average temperatures, according to Jamal Al Mousa of the Department of Meteorology.

Mr. Al Mousa told the Jordan Times that the average tempera-

ture for this time of year is around 16° C, but due to the cold air mass, temperatures during the next two days will not rise above 11° C and will drop as low as 3° C at night.

He added that constant wind will accompany the showers.

Mr. Al Mousa, in Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy and seas will be rough.

Effects of this mass, he explained, are expected to remain until Tuesday evening when a new cold air mass, resulting from a depression centred over Greece, will affect the eastern Mediterranean region, including Jordan. This will bring more rain, he said.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King hosts Iftar for Parliament

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday hosted an Iftar banquet in honour of members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament. The Iftar was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief of the Royal Court Khalid Al Karaki, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, and Private Chamberlain Prince Nayef Ben Ali.

King sends congratulations to Syrian president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable of good wishes to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on his country's national day anniversary. In the cable the King wished the president continued health and the Syrian people further progress and prosperity.

House to discuss civil service criteria Sunday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament reviewed a request by 17 deputies to discuss conditions and criteria of appointments in public service posts. The House set Sunday, Mar. 14 as the date for discussing these appointments.

Tamimi discusses pilgrimage with Turkish envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Issues pertaining to Muslim pilgrims from Turkey were at the centre of discussion Sunday by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi and Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Mehmet Iremelik. They also discussed Jordanian-Turkish cooperation in religious affairs. Turkey's pilgrims to the holy sites on Mecca and Medina normally pass through Jordan by land, and the Ministry of Awqaf hosts them at a pilgrims city near the northern town of Ramtha.

King condoles Qal'aji and Qar'an families

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday visited the house of the late Hassan Al Qal'aji to condole the Qal'aji and Qar'an families on the death of the wife of Abdul Karim Al Qar'an.

Crown Prince condoles Nawaiseh family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday delegated Karak Governor Radi Ibrahim to convey his condolences to Nawaiseh family over the death of Theeb Al Nawaiseh.

Zarqa moves street vendors from streets

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa municipality has embarked on an all-out campaign to remove street vendors from the downtown business centre which is crowded with pedestrians. Zarqa Mayor Yasser Omari said municipality inspection teams are in the area 24 hours a day to prevent vendors from entering the business centre. The municipality has arranged for the vendors to sell their goods in another district near the bus terminal and away from congested streets, in order to facilitate traffic.

Jobs urged for journalism graduates

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Civil Service Commission Abdullah Ulayan Sunday called on the government departments to appoint university graduates specialising in journalism and mass communication in appropriate posts. In a circular addressed to ministries and departments, Mr. Ulayan said, there is a need for supporting administrative units at such institutions with specialised communicators and information personnel to help implement administrative development. The circular urged the ministries and departments concerned to look into the possibility of absorbing journalists and communicators into suitable jobs, taking into consideration their own needs.

University students elect council today

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 221 students from the University of Jordan will be competing for the 80-member student council, which will be elected Monday (today), according to Dean of Students Affairs Mohammad Khreisat. Mr. Khreisat, who is also the rapporteur of the elections committee, said 21,169 students will cast votes in Monday's elections.

PSD graduates 151 officers

ZARQA (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday graduated 151 new police officers from the Police Training Academy in Zarqa and named the group the "Saladin" detachment. The new officers, who underwent a 22-week training theoretical and practical training in police work, received their diplomas and awards from the PSD Assistant Director Abdul Rahman Al Udwan. The graduates presented military and equestrian performances before the spectators attending the graduation ceremony.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jamal, Helen Khal, Suha Noursi and Afaf Zurayk — at the

Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

★ Islamic book exhibition at the Islamic Centre in Zarqa.

FILM

★ French film entitled "Police Python" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

A leading company (Shakshir Rent-A-Car) has a bright opportunity at the sales department

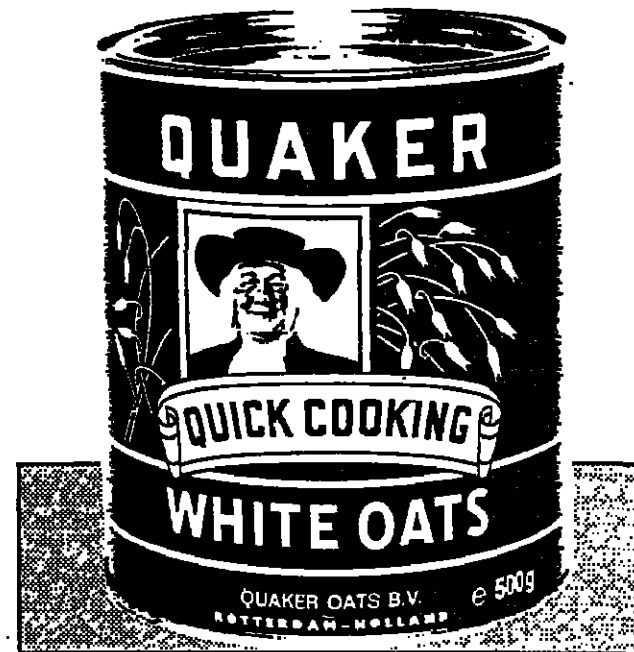
★ University degree from U.S.A. or U.K. (sales & marketing is preferred)

★ Experience in a related field is a plus.

Qualified candidates are kindly requested to call 668958 to arrange for a preliminary meeting.

QUAKER OATS

High energy value



Used with soups, stews, and as a porridge made with water or milk

Highly recommended for the whole family

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
جورديان تايمز عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة للصحافة الاردنية

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Old thinking prevails again?

Making the association between the Jordanians and Palestinians clearer as of now would infinitely enhance the prospects for Palestinian attainment of their national goals and render the likelihood of a drift into self-defeating tactics more remote.

WITHOUT THE Palestinians, there can be no real peace in the Middle East and without the Palestinian participation in the talks the peace process can have no meaning at all, said Tareq Masarweh in Al Ra'i daily. The writer said that if the Palestine question is not on the agenda of the negotiators then the whole process is aimed at achieving normalisation of relations between Israel and the Arab states, which is not in the interest of anyone left alone the Palestinians. The U.S.-Israeli alliance is now planning to achieve separate peace treaties with the Arab states, something which would keep Iraq and other Arab states isolated from the rest of the Arab Nation as was in the case of Egypt which signed the Camp David agreement, the writer said. He said that the current peace process is like a train manufactured in the United States and driven by an Israeli, taking the Arab states away from the Palestinians and Iraqis and towards a destination that does not angur well for the Arab Nation. The United States has an interest in such peace in order to deepen the splits within the Arab World and to ensure its total hegemony over the Arab Nation and its oil wealth, the writer added. The writer warned that a peace process without the Palestinians and devoid of lasting solution to their problem can by no means attain peace for the region but rather would leave the Arab Nation facing a grim future.

Dr. Aruri is professor of political science at South Eastern Massachusetts University. The article is a reprint from Middle East International.

[illegible]

Suspect's father says son is innocent

(Continued from page 1)

cent." Mohammad's father, a retired first lieutenant, from the army's medical corps, said in the presence of two of Mohammad's brothers who expressed similar surprise at the arrest of their eldest brother.

"Why didn't he flee the United States if he was guilty?" he asked. Amin Salameh, who now works for a freight clearance company, asserted that the arrest of his son was fabricated by the U.S. government to please the Zionist lobby in the United States.

"Israel wants to ruin the relationship between (the United States and Muslims) with all this talk about fundamentalism and extremism," he said.

"I go to the mosque and say my prayers but this does not mean I am an extremist," said Amin Salameh, who lives in a brick apartment located in the middle of a narrow unshaded alley.

Since he left for the U.S. in 1988, Mohammad contacted his family regularly and occasionally made financial contributions to his family in which the father is the only breadwinner.

Mohammad contacted his family last by telephone a month ago and his father said, "there was nothing unusual in the call."

The family heard of Mohammad's arrest in the news and his father said he had not been contacted by the Jordanian authorities.

The father said the media were the only means of receiving news about his son who has no relatives in the United States. He said he has not heard from his son since his arrest. Mohammad's lawyer said in New York the suspect had sent a letter to his father saying he was innocent.

The father said he has nothing to say to his son but "God is with him. God is with us."

AP adds: The mother of Salameh also said Sunday she was convinced he is innocent.

"He had big dreams," said his mother, Aysha, 45. "He wanted to fulfill his dreams in America. He is not a terrorist."

"I am sure of America's fair justice, and that my son will come out of this nightmare soon," she told the Associated Press. "I am

not the mother of a terrorist."

Family members denied Salameh was a Muslim fundamentalist, as claimed by U.S. officials. But they also said his life underwent a noticeable change in his final years of high school in Jordan that continued through his Islamic Law Studies.

"He became religious, started to pray and read the Koran with other friends in high school," said a brother, Ahmad. "He stopped most of his past activities and hobbies and even grew a beard."

"He was not a fundamentalist. He was interested in Islamic teachings," said Ahmad, who was reluctant to be photographed, saying his blond beard might be misinterpreted as a token of fundamentalism.

The family lives in a four bedroom house which it built two years after Mr. Salameh travelled to the United States on Feb. 17, 1988. Mr. Salameh went to study and try to fulfill his dream of earning a master's degree in business administration, his family said.

U.S. authorities said he stayed in the United States illegally after his visa expired.

He was described as a follower of radical Egyptian cleric Omar Abdul Rahman, who is facing deportation proceedings in the United States. The family denied that Salameh knew Sheikh Abdul Rahman.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman has issued a statement denouncing the bombing.



Elderly residents of the Palestinian village of Bedlah read the newspapers looking for more information on Mohammad Salameh, whose family is from the village where he was born in 1967, before fleeing the Israeli occupation of the West Bank (AFP photo)

Jordanians sceptical over 'Islamic link'

(Continued from page 1)

added, "then perhaps the intention and message to Jordan is to tighten the screw around the Islamists."

Jordan has been the only country tolerating Islamic political groups in the region for more than 35 years where confrontations between these groups and the state have been non-existent, an uncommon phenomenon in the area.

A "crusade against Islam" is how some ordinary people, including seculars, viewed the arrest of Mr. Salameh, whom most believe was framed by people working against Arab interests and for Israeli interests.

Mohammad Khalil, a non-religious Muslim businessman, said that the bombing and "the frameup" of Mr. Salameh was a clear indication that "the West is waging a war against Islam, trying to give Islam the role of the great threat to Western morals and interests."

"Look how the West is dealing with the massacres of Bosnian Muslims by Christian Serbs," Mr. Khalil said. "They sit and watch the killing of Muslims because

they simply want less Muslims in the world, and especially in Europe. They want to eliminate Islam and will fight it under the pretext of Muslim fundamentalism being a danger to Western interests, a war that has already begun in the Western media in the past months."

Islamist Deputy Laith Shbeilat described the New York affair as part of a "new crusade to legitimate American intervention in the area and to create religious hatred and wars."

Mr. Shbeilat insisted that the U.S. establishment was trying to destabilise the Kingdom. "Why wasn't a travel advisory issued to Americans in Egypt where there really are attacks against foreigners?" He said that "whoever is behind this incident did it in the service of Israel."

A youngish salesman, echoing a statement frequently heard in Jordanian circles since Saturday night, said: "They framed an Arab and a Jordanian-Palestinian in particular."

Iyad Qattan, director of the Royal Cultural Centre, and Labib Kamhawi, a political science professor, however, were cautious not to describe the Salameh affair

"He is a good son. He sent us a total of \$5,000 from his savings," his mother said in her modest living room, decorated with pictures of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

Also in evidence were pictures of Palestinian guerrilla fighters and green flags symbolising the intifada.

Three of Mr. Salameh's brothers — Ahmad, 24, Majdi, 19, and Ramzi, 16 — sat on a sofa next to their mother.

"Mohammad was not affiliated with any political or Islamic party in Jordan," said Ahmad, a student of Islamic religion like his older brother. "He was a peaceful and shy person and never had violent tendencies."

Outside the hilltop house on Zarqa's outskirts, Palestinian refugees children played mock war games with plastic AK-47s and pistols. His mother said the scene was reminiscent of Mr. Salameh's childhood.

Mr. Salameh last telephoned his family on Jan. 19, when he discussed his possible marriage to an American in the United States.

"His father and I always asked him to come back and get married here, but he told us he was looking for a decent American wife," said his mother, adding that the motive may have been to get American citizenship.

The Salameh family lives on the father's army pension of \$200 a month and his monthly salary of another \$200 from his job at a shipping agency that he took after retiring from the army.

Mr. Ricks said loud rock-and-roll music heard blasting from the compound during the night was apparently recorded earlier by the guitar-playing cult leader, aimed at trying to intimidate the police surrounding his fortress.

Mr. Koresch said his followers are free to leave but the FBI said the cult members look for approval from their leader.

Federal authorities did not know the number of dead in the cult complex but some reports said the toll could be as high as 15.

The Branch Davidian sect is an offshoot of a group that split from the Seventh-Day Adventist Church 60 years ago. Cult members consider Mr. Koresch to be the Messiah and believe the end of the world is near.

as a "conspiracy." They said that Jordanians and Palestinians should take Mr. Clinton's advice not to rush to any conclusions.

Unlike most people who have theorised about Mr. Salameh's case, Mr. Qattan insisted on being rational in his analysis. "Why do we (Arabs) always have to stumble into politics every time something happens?" Mr. Qattan asked, adding that the case might not have any political background.

Dr. Kamhawi agreed that the bombing of the World Trade Centre could have been done by anyone — "maybe a drug addict and for no reason at all, for example."

"This is an entirely American issue and not an Arab one," Dr. Kamhawi said, noting that the U.S. was a melting pot of various cultures and ethnic backgrounds.

"What is on trial here is the motive, which is basically a domestic American motive and not a Muslim fundamentalist one," he added. "I don't believe this bombing should be used as a pretext to hit fundamentalists, Islam or Arabs. That's why I disagree with the Western media which is blaming Muslim fundamentalists and agree with Mr. Clinton."

Cult leader

(Continued from page 1)

For the second straight day the FBI issued a public appeal to Mr. Koresch, who is known to monitor radio and television broadcasts of the briefings from the farm complex east of Waco.

"We will do almost anything within our power to get this settled," Mr. Ricks said. But, he said Mr. Koresch continually makes demands and rejects them after the FBI agrees to his terms.

In one example authorities agreed to send in milk for the children after Mr. Koresch asked for it. But when it was offered, he rejected it, Mr. Ricks said.

At another point a six-year-old girl named Melissa spoke directly to negotiators over the telephone saying she wanted to come out and join the 21 children released earlier. Mr. Ricks said she spoke cheerfully of leaving but later said she had changed her mind, seeming to be "parroting" words that someone told her to speak.

In what seemed to be almost a supplication aimed at Mr. Koresch, Mr. Ricks said the entire affair — which began one week ago when four agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms died in a gunbattle while trying to arrest Mr. Koresch on a weapons charge — "could be resolved in the next hour...it's within his power."

Mr. Ricks said the negotiations ended at 3:15 a.m. local time on Sunday (0915 GMT) and resumed at 9:50 a.m. on Sunday (1550 GMT).

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Referring to some of the things Turkey has in common with the Central Asian region, Mr. Demirel said that "we share a common history, a common language, a common religion and a common culture. We are cousins cut off from each other for over 100 years, first by the Russians under the Czars, and then by the Communist regime." He discounted any element of rivalry between Turkey, Iran and Pakistan in Central Asia, adding that "we all want these countries to develop according to their own desires and we all agree that we should be helping them to stand on their own feet."

Turkey has been quick to establish embassies in all the Central Asian states and the importance Turkey attaches to this region was underlined by the Turkish ambassador in Kazakhstan

Iran and Turkey in Central Asia

Complementary or competing roles?

By Mushahid Hussain

THE NOVEMBER 1992 visit to Iran of Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel underlined the mutual need for a better relationship between these two Muslim neighbours who are active and important players in Central Asia. Along with Pakistan, both are founders of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) which now includes the independent Muslim republics of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, as well as Afghanistan.

When the Central Asian republics became independent it was Turkey that was promoted by the West, particularly the U.S., as a model for them to emulate. During his visit to Islamabad in October 1992, Mr. Demirel spoke at some length on this notion of a "Turkish model" for Central Asia.

He said that "we are not going to run these countries, they will have to run themselves. If they adopt something from Turkey, it is their business, we are not going to impose our model on them. But we would like to see them as democratic, secular and market-oriented countries. If they ask us, we will give them advice."

Referring to some of the things Turkey has in common with the Central Asian region, Mr. Demirel said that "we share a common history, a common language, a common religion and a common culture. We are cousins cut off from each other for over 100 years, first by the Russians under the Czars, and then by the Communist regime." He discounted any element of rivalry between Turkey, Iran and Pakistan in Central Asia, adding that "we all want these countries to develop according to their own desires and we all agree that we should be helping them to stand on their own feet."

Turkey has been quick to establish embassies in all the Central Asian states and the importance Turkey attaches to this region was underlined by the Turkish ambassador in Kazakhstan

when he said that 1,170 Turkish delegations had visited the region within a year.

Despite its professed secularism, Turkey has provided some financial assistance for Islamic education and worship in Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan. The first Turkish mission to open in the region was its embassy in Tashkent, in April 1992. The Uzbek government responded to this gesture by locating it at the spacious old foreign ministry. Uzbekistan has also requested Turkish language teachers. Turkey has also been providing financial assistance in such areas as tourism and economic management.

Notwithstanding these advantages, the Central Asians are in no mood to accept a "model" after decades of Russian domination. At a recent conference of education ministers of Turkic-speaking countries in Kyrgyzstan, participants resented the presence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and chose not to accept its credentials, despite Turkey's insistence to the contrary. And during an October summit of Turkic-speaking states at Ankara, these countries turned down a Turkish proposal to establish a Common Market among them.

Iran's role is somewhat different from Turkey's since its presence in the region is relatively new. It too has established embassies in all the capitals of the Central Asian region, although it has yet to appoint an ambassador in Uzbekistan. Iran seeks to push economic and cultural interests, while not referring politically to Islam at all. One of Iran's ambassadors in the region pointed out that Iran is the first to dispel the notion about so-called "Islamic fundamentalism" and "export of Islam, which is what the West is keen to label us with. We only want to emphasise our economic relationship and our cultural compatibility." For instance, Iranian radio has started broadcasts in Uzbek and is also planning to

start Kyrgyz language broadcasts. Turkish television can be seen all over Central Asia three hours every evening.

On the economic front, Iran has established the Caspian Sea Cooperation Council which includes Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, while Turkey has established the Black Sea Cooperation Council along similar lines. Iran is also keen to establish a rail link with Turkmenistan which could become the shortest route from Europe to China by train. Iran has also proposed the construction of a road between Alma Ata and Mashhad via Turkmenistan.

Kazakhstan has huge reserves of oil at its Tengiz field north of Turkmenistan close to the Caspian Sea. The Tengiz oilfield reportedly has reserves for 40 years. Iran is proposing that the oil pipeline from Tengiz, which already goes to Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, can go down south approximately 500 kilometres in to the Iranian city of Tabriz, which has an oil refinery, and from there the refined oil can be transported to the Gulf. Alternatively, the refined oil could be sent from Tabriz to Turkey for onward export to Europe.

Kazakhstan has a contract with the American oil company, Chevron, who will be responsible for developing Tengiz for the next five years, after which it will own 20 per cent, with the state keeping the other 80 per cent. Chevron has proposed that oil from

Tengiz be sent to Europe through the Black Sea, or that a pipeline could be constructed under the Caspian Sea for onward transmission via Azerbaijan to Europe. In both cases the intent is to bypass Iran.

Given Iran's location and its non-ideological perspective on relations with Central Asia, there is little doubt that it will be an active economic and political player in the region. Iranian sources also say that Kazakh President Nazarbayev has assured Iran that he will see some sort of role for it in the export of Kazakhstan's oil.

Whatever the future direction of Central Asia, two things seem to be apparent. First, the much vaunted "Turkish model" has been relegated and in fact superseded by American efforts to play a direct role in Central Asia without surrogates. In fact, the U.S. is keen to promote Israel as an active player in the region. There is a small native Jewish population in Uzbekistan, and the Israelis and Americans since also engaged in a number of joint projects in agriculture and irrigation. Second, despite what Iranian president, Hashemi Razi Sanjani, termed in February 1992 as "friendly competition" between Iran and Turkey, the kind of role that the two countries have far have envisaged for themselves in Central Asia could eventually end up being more complementary than competitive.

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World Youth Soccer Championship

Americans upset Turkey 6-0

ELBOURNE (AP) — Striker Irfan Faklaris scored a sizzling trick Sunday night as the United States swamped European champion Turkey 6-0 in its opening match of soccer's World Youth Championship.

The Americans scored three goals in each half as they stunned the Turks with a succession of brilliant attacks.

Faklaris' three-goal haul was capped by two strikes from Irfan Joseph and one from Imad Babba.

Midfielder Baba, an 18-year-old high school senior from Humble, Texas, put the United States ahead in the 21st minute with a bit footed free kick that flew off the top left hand corner of the net.

Clemson University midfielder Joseph made it 2-0 five minutes later after collecting a pinpoint pass from Brian Kelly.

Faklaris, leading goal scorer at the University of South Carolina, added the heat with a goal in the 29th minute, hammering the ball home from close range.

He made it 4-0 a minute after time, striking the ball brilliantly from 25 metres out.

Joseph was on target again in the 73rd minute and Faklaris scored his third goal in the 89th minute.

The Americans, whose squad comprises four high school seniors and 14 collegians, constantly kept the pressure on Turkish goalkeeper Yetkin Akman.

Turkish coach Hamdi Serpil said before the match that he had not done any homework on the Americans and that move

backfired on him.

The Americans finished fourth in the 1989 World Youth Championship.

Turkey won the European Championship last year, beating Portugal in the final, but its injury hit squad never looked comfortable against the hard-working Americans.

England - South Korea 1-1: England scored a late equalizer to draw 1-1 with South Korea Sunday night in its opening match of soccer's World Youth Championship.

Tall Chelsea defender Ian Pearce levelled the score with six minutes remaining when he headed home an Alan Thompson corner kick from close range.

The Koreans took the lead in the 32nd minute when Newcastle United defender Steve Watson miscued a clearance and it flew into his own net past Barnsley goalkeeper David Watson.

Nicky Barnby, England's star forward, was closely marked by the Korean defenders and was unable to make much impression other than being cautioned by German referee Helmut Krug in the 12th minute.

Barnby often found himself surrounded by up to four defenders.

The bigger, stronger English players were not able to take advantage of their physical attributes and often struggled against neat inter-passing by the quick and skillful Koreans.

Captain Cho Jun-Ho led South Korea impressively in difficult wet conditions but England recovered to dominate the last 10

minutes.

England and South Korea are with Turkey and the United States in Group C.

The English team were black ambassadors during the match as a sign of respect for former England captain Bobby Moore, who died last week.

Moore captained England when it won the World Cup at Wembley in 1966.

Saudi Arabia-Brazil 0-0: Saudi Arabia held two time champion Brazil to a 0-0 draw Sunday night in a group D match.

The Saudis created a number of scoring chances in the second half as the pre-tournament favourites from South America struggled to find their rhythm.

Brazil finished the match with 10 new after forward Pereira was sent off in the 73rd minute for his second caution.

One blistering shot from Fabel Al Ghesheyan in the 60th minute forced giant Brazilian goalkeeper Biba to make a desperate diving save to his right.

Al Ghesheyan was named match MVP.

Russia-Cameroon 2-0: Striker Igor Zazulin scored after 27 seconds and sparked Russia to a 2-0 victory over Cameroon in a Group A match.

Zazulin pounced to score with a header after a cross from Sergei Chudin to set the Russians on the road to victory.

Alexander Karataiev sealed the win when he struck home a curling free kick from 25 metres (yards) out in the 37th minute.

The free-kick was awarded af-

ter defender Simon Moukoko fouled Karataiev.

The win lifted Russia to the top of group A on goal difference.

Australia also has two points after beating Colombia 2-1 in its opening match Friday in Sydney.

Mexico-Norway 3-0: Vicente Nieto scored a goal in each half Sunday night as Mexico swept to an impressive 3-0 victory over Norway in a Group B match.

Nieto, a 19-year-old left winger from the strong Unam Club in Mexico City, was on target in the 44th and 71st minutes at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Striker Jesus Olalde, who set up Nieto's first goal, scored Mexico's third goal in the 84th minute.

The Mexicans continued to dominate after halftime, despite the absence of star striker Gabriel Garcia, who came on as a 75th minute substitute.

Mexico restricted Norway to only a handful of chances.

Uruguay-Ghana 1-1: Augustine Ahinful scored the equalizer in the 73rd minute Saturday to lift Ghana into a 1-1 draw with Uruguay in a fast-flowing and entertaining Group D match.

Ahinful's shot from about 10 metres beat Uruguayan goalkeeper Sergio Martinez in a match that either side could have won during a wild final 10 minutes.

In that span, both teams had goals disallowed for offside.

The top two teams from each of four groups will advance to the quarterfinals. The tournament continues through March 20.

Jordan national soccer team to play in Qatar

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's national soccer team travels to the Qatari capital Doha, Monday to play two friendly matches against the Qatari national team.

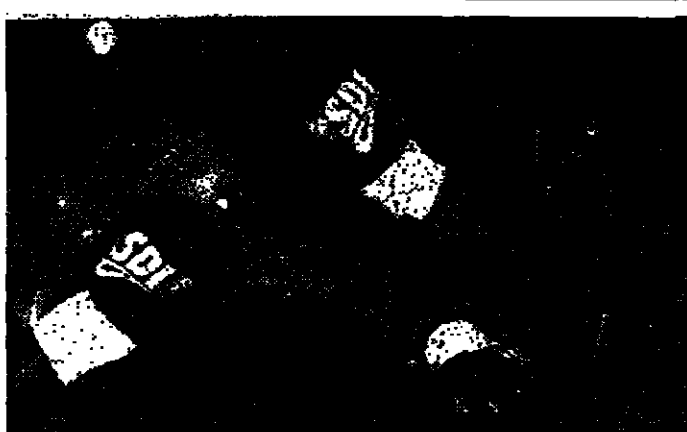
The matches are in preparation for the World Cup qualifying round which will be played in May. The Kingdom's team is grouped with Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen and China.

The Qatari team will play its World Cup qualifying matches against Singapore, North Korea, Vietnam, and Indonesia.

The two matches against Qatar, will be the first abroad for the national team. Last week they played the Syrian national team in Irbid. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.

The Jordanian and Qatari national teams have played ten matches over the past 13 years. Qatar won six times, while Jordan won twice. Two matches ended in a draw.

Jordan Television will televise both matches Friday, March 14 and Sunday, March 16.



Frenchman Anacleto Wamba (right) retained his World Boxing Council cruiserweight title with a victory over American David Veder (AFP photo)

Wamba, Vasquez retain boxing titles

LEVALLOIS, France (AP) — Anacleto Wamba of France and David Vasquez of Puerto Rico defended world championship boxing titles Saturday with decisions over challengers.

Wamba defended his World Boxing Council cruiserweight title over American David Veder. Vasquez held onto his world boxing association super bantamweight crown over Colombian Luis Menboza.

Neither fight was exciting and the champion of the respective divisions won each of the 12 round bouts without much trouble or power.

Wamba, originally from the Congo, is now 40-2. Veder, 20-12, lost his second title fight in less than three months. Last December he bowled to Australian Jeff Harding in a WBC light heavyweight fight.



French driver Francois Delecour (left) and Ford teammate Massimo Biasion of Italy jubilate in Estoril after winning first and second places of the Portuguese Rally (AFP photo)

Delecour wins Portuguese Rally, Biasion second

ESTORIL (AP) — Francois Delecour, who built a sizeable lead on the first day, cruised to his first World Championship rally victory Saturday, winning the Port Wine Rally over Ford teammate Massimo Biasion of Italy by 55 seconds.

After earning the lead on the opening day, the Frenchman, driving a Ford Escort CS Cosworth, was untouchable for the remaining three days and completed the 2,164 kilometres, broken into 38 stages over dirt and asphalt roads in the Portuguese hills, in six hours, 20 minutes and 37 seconds.

Irfan, Sanchez Vicario reach final

ELRAY BEACH, Florida (AP) — On Saturday, Delray Beach was the place for wipouts. Top seeds, Steffi Graf and Andre Sanchez Vicario scored by victories to advance to the final at the Virginia Slims of Florida.

First, Sanchez Vicario beat nanda Coetzee 6-2, 6-2. Then he turned in an even more dominating performance against low German Anke Huber to 6-1, 6-1.

The final should be closer, in though Graf has a 17-3 record against Sanchez Vicario, a second seeded Spaniard seems to be at the top of her game and is learning to win points in power as well as patience.

In one sequence against Coetzee, for example, she hit a pair of vice winners, belted an ace, moved in and put away a skand overhead to win the set in six.

"I was very happy with the way I played," Sanchez Vicario said, put pressure on her and I was nervous.

Against the eighth seeded Coetzee, Sanchez Vicario had ace aces and won 15 points at net. But what she still does is get the ball back, and she steadily chased down shots in corners.



Steffi Graf

"The pact that she runs so well is always on your mind," said Coetzee, who has not won a set from Sanchez Vicario in six matches.

Graf, seeded No. 1, is seeking her first title since winning the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia in November. She was able to dominate the fifth-seeded Huber from the baseline, winning the first five games and closing out the match with perhaps her best shot of the night, a sizzling cross court backhand winner.

Huber has lost every set against

Graf in their five matches.

Jim Courier beats Michael Chang

Jim Courier recovered from 0-2 deficits in both sets against No. 4 Michael Chang for a 6-4, 6-4 semifinal victory Saturday at the \$1.7 million Champions Cup.

Courier, the top seed and World's No. 1 player, advanced to the final against No. 14 Wayne Ferreira, a 7-6, (7-3), 6-3 winner over No. 15 Alexander Volkov.

Anand overtakes Kasparov

LINARES (AP) — Indian grandmaster Viswanathan Anand defeated Yugoslav Ljubomir Ljudojevic Saturday to take a half point lead over world champion Garry Kasparov of Russia in the 11th Linares International chess tournament.

Anand, playing white, won in 44 moves.

Kasparov, playing black, drew with Alexander Deljajsky of Ukraine in 22 moves, ending the eighth round of the 13 round tournament with 5.5 points of Anand's 6.0 points.

Russian former world champion Anatoly Karpov, playing white, battled American Gata Kamsky for 60 moves before the game was adjourned. Karpov was tied for third in the rankings with Latvian Alexi Shirov.

A player receives one point for a win and a half point for a draw. The ninth round was scheduled for Monday, with an adjourned fifth round game between Ljudojevic and Spaniard Valery Salov and the competition on the Karpov-Kamsky duel slated for Sunday.

eanuts



Andy Capp



Aut'n'Jeff



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 9872 ♠ AKQ73 ♠ A643
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
3 ♠ Pass Pass ?
What action do you take?

A.—Why didn't partner act? With both majors and known club short-ages, he would probably have doubled, so it sounds as if he has a flawed holding in one of the majors. In that case you are assured of a fit in one of the red suits. Bid three diamonds.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 762 ♠ QJ5 ♠ Q109 ♠ A45
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass ?
What action do you take?

A.—In the balancing seat, all your actions should be shaded by a couple of points. Thus, with 13-15 points and a balanced hand, reopen with one no trump. What if you hold 16-18 balanced? Double first, then bid no trump.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 10852 ♠ A8 ♠ Q652 ♠ 83
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass ?
What action do you take?

A.—In the immediate seat, you would not think of acting with such a poor five-card suit. In the balancing seat, suit quality is of lesser importance. You are bidding the cards you expect to find in partner's hand. Reopen with one spade.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K8 ♠ AKQ863 ♠ 9854 ♠ 63
The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—From the previous problem it is evident that you can reopen with a relatively weak hand. Therefore, you need to do more than simply bid one heart, but doubling first and then bidding hearts over partner's response does not show this type of hand. The solution is to jump to two hearts, which describes a good one-suiter.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K95 ♠ A983 ♠ QJ63 ♠ 46
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass ?
What action do you take?

A.—In the immediate seat you would overcall one heart—you don't want to double lest partner, with four spades and three hearts, bids some number of spades. But since a simple balancing bid can show so much less, you have to balance here with a double and risk landing in your second-best suit, which is far less costly than missing a game—or a sizable penalty should partner wish to convert.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 10952 ♠ A9 ♠ QK83 ♠ 762
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl
Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—Had partner doubled in the immediate seat, you would jump to two spades to show a hand of invitational strength. In the balancing seat, however, partner might double with as few as 11 points, so you should proceed with care. Bid one spade.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MARCH 8, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can expect some minor startling things to happen during the occasion of the full Moon in Virgo, today but the overall effect has rather a rosy hue allowing you to do pretty much what you want about the practical problems facing you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Consider what older persons of different ideas can do for you, consult with them their views and then energetically get busy making it all work well.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever inspires you to make a more prosperous life for yourself now is excellent so arrange for it to be in effect for sometime to come.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A proven associate of standing has it in his power to benefit you for some favour you have rendered so don't be shy but accept gratefully any ideas.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Tasks that have seemed unending and tiresome in the past can now be made much more pleasant for you with beneficial results following.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) The romance you have enjoyed for sometime should be particularly satisfying now so cheer up and be happy with the one who most appeals to you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September

22) You have some duties at your home that may take awhile but when you have completed them you will have a fine feeling of satisfaction at a job well done.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your finest abilities can now be expressed in whatever outside activities face you so fill your calendar with worthwhile appointments, attend to them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Some material condition that you have put aside can now be revived and be made to bring you in some really practical benefits so be alert.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A persistent goal that you have had in mind and put aside for the moment is the best means for you to gain the results that make life easier for you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You now can get rid of a condition you feel to have been a limitation but hard to get rid of so apply yourself vigorously to doing so.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) An older friend who takes your time generally can be helpful to you in gaining a personal end so listen to and follow any suggestions given to you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think about what you can do to improve your public standing by some civic or community activity that the public and officials will appreciate.

THE BETTER HALF.

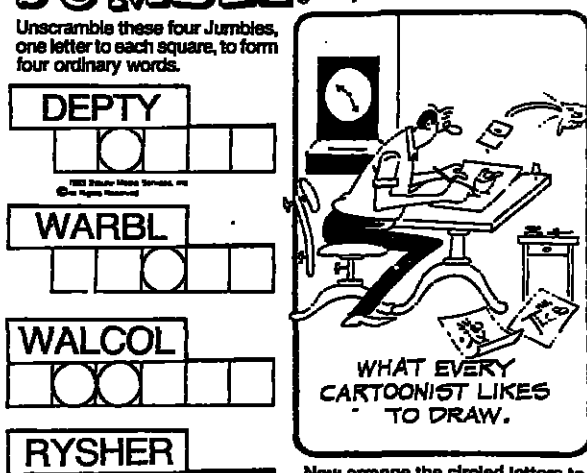
By Glasbergen



"It's stamped right on my driver's license. I'm officially too old to take you out necking in the car."

JUMBLE.

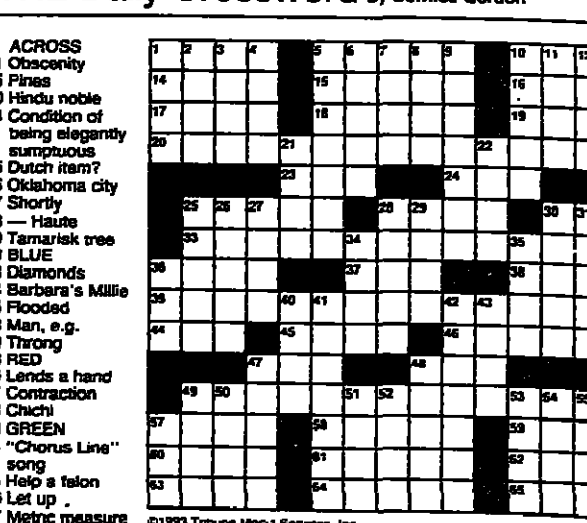
UNSCRAMBLE THESE FOUR JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.



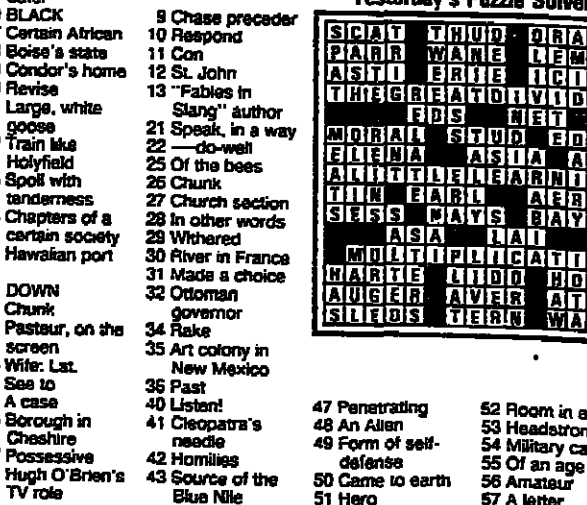
Print answer here: HIS (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PUTTY GUILD SEPTIC BETRAY
Answer: An eyecore in the barnyard—A PIG STY

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Decisions for fundamental changes on the club regulations have been taken by the General Assembly.

Yeltsin calls for cooperation with all Russian political forces

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin said Sunday he would consult all of Russia's political forces in a further effort to defuse tension ahead of next week's emergency congress.

"I have reached some conclusions as to steps I must take, taking into account the political situation. First of all is consultation with all movements, political parties and organisations," Mr. Yeltsin told Commonwealth Television.

It was the second time in two days that Mr. Yeltsin appeared in a cooperative mood before the expected showdown next week with the Congress of People's Deputies over Russia's political future.

On Saturday, Mr. Yeltsin said he was ready to cooperate with his opponents in the legislature to end the political crisis, although

hardliners gave no sign they were willing to compromise.

Mr. Yeltsin was expected to appear on Commonwealth Television late Sunday night to lay out his views on the political situation and possibly disclose his proposed questions for an April 11 referendum on the country's power structure.

Last week, Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko, head of Mr. Yeltsin's Commission on the Referendum, said three questions had been drafted and would probably be announced by the president this weekend.

According to the ITAR-TASS News Agency, the questions ask whether the new constitution should give citizens unconditional rights to own land; and whether a two chamber Supreme Soviet should be Russia's sole legislative

organ.

Lawmakers have yet to announce their proposed questions, which must be approved by the Congress.

The referendum is one of two main items on the agenda of the Congress, which begins Wednesday.

Also on the agenda for the session is a move to study whether any Russian leaders violated the constitution, which could be a prelude to impeachment.

The constitutional court already has ruled that Mr. Yeltsin violated some articles of the constitution — by banning Communist Party structures after the failed 1991 coup, and by banning the hardline National Salvation Front.

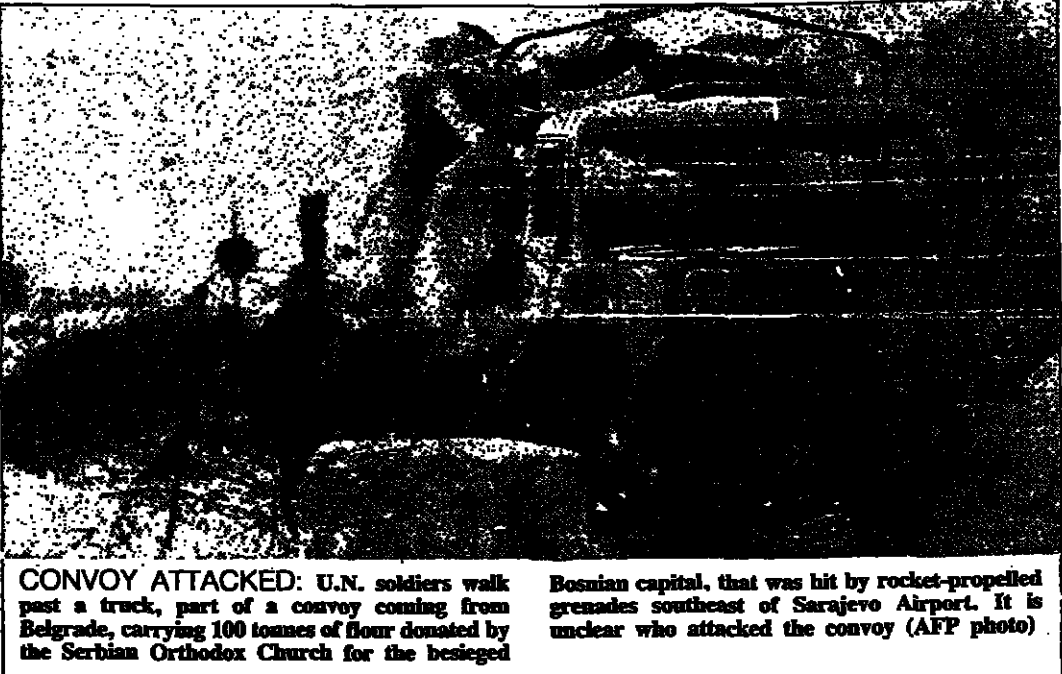
The agenda does not mention the word "impeachment," and

says only that it will study "the observance of the constitution of the Russian Federation by the supreme power structures and top officials of the Russian Federation."

The battle between Mr. Yeltsin and the Congress is a result of the failure to create a new political system spelling out the powers of each branch of government in post-Communist Russia.

Under Soviet rule, the Communist Party held a monopoly on power, controlling all branches of government, the military and the security apparatus.

The Congress, which is dominated by former Communists elected before the collapse of the Soviet Union, wants to hold supreme power, while Mr. Yeltsin is trying to create a strong presidency.



CONVOY ATTACKED: U.N. soldiers walk past a track, part of a convoy coming from Belgrade, carrying 100 tonnes of flour donated by the Serbian Orthodox Church for the besieged Bosnian capital, that was hit by rocket-propelled grenades southeast of Sarajevo Airport. It is unclear who attacked the convoy (AFP photo)



Prince Philip to drive taxi

LONDON (AP) — Prince Philip has ordered one of London's trademark black cabs for driving himself about town when a chauffeur-driven royal limousine doesn't suit the occasion.

Prince Philip tested a cab on the grounds of Buckingham Palace before placing the £20,000 order, the spokesman for Metrocab, the company which makes London's box shaped taxis. The royal cab will be dark green, rather than black, with grey velour upholstery and carpets. It will have a passenger seat instead of a luggage area to allow a security officer to sit next to the driver.

Prince Philip, the 71-year-old husband of Queen Elizabeth II, is known to occasionally dismiss his chauffeur and drive himself.

S. African police arrest 3 suspects in massacre

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Police have arrested three suspects and confiscated automatic rifles following a mass shooting that claimed 10 black lives in the eastern province of Natal, authorities said Sunday.

The Friday night attack on a minibus near Pietermaritzburg is believed to be revenge for a March 2 massacre in the same

area in which six schoolchildren were gunned down in their school bus.

Police spokesman Craig Kotze said the two attacks are thought to be part of an ongoing feud between the African National Congress (ANC) and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), the country's two largest black groups.

The two parties have been battling for supremacy in Natal since the mid-1980s, leaving thousands dead.

The victims of the Friday night attack were believed to be ANC supporters, while several of the slain schoolchildren had parents with ties to Inkatha, a conservative Zulu movement.

Police did not release the suspects' names or say if they were affiliated with any group. Authorities confiscated four rifles when making the arrests Saturday night and Sunday morning.

Police also have arrested three people in connection with the shooting of the schoolchildren, but have not divulged details on those suspects either.

Tajik rebels ousted from strongholds

MOSCOW (AP) — Tajikistan's interior minister said pro-government forces have driven opposition fighters out of two key strongholds and the civil war may be nearing an end, the ITAR-TASS News Agency reported.

Interior Minister Yakub Salimov said rebels have been ousted from the town of Garm and Kom-somolabad and out of the Ramit Canyon near the capital of Dushanbe, the report said.

"The fratricidal war is practically coming to an end in Tajikistan," he said, according to the dispatch.

The report could not be independently verified.

War broke out in the impoverished former Soviet republic in Central Asia in May and the balance of power has changed hands several times.

The conflict — a web of political, ethnic, regional and clan loyalties — pits a loose opposition coalition of Islamic and self-described pro-democracy guerrillas against gunmen loyal to former Communists.

The two sides have been battling for control of the region around Garm and Kom-somolabad, east of Dushanbe, for weeks.

ITAR-TASS quoted Mr. Salimov as saying government troops had moved into Garm and Kom-somolabad and people who had fled the fighting were returning home. He said government forces were trying to persuade the rebels now entrenched in the mountains to surrender.

Leaders of other former Soviet republics fear the Tajik conflict — and with it, weapons, drugs and Islamic fundamentalism from neighbouring Afghanistan — will spread. Tajik fundamentalists have said they are getting training, weapons and other assistance from Muslims in Afghanistan.

Also Saturday, reports from Azerbaijan said the Azerbaijani riot police clashed with members of the Lezgin ethnic minority, leaving 6 Lezgins dead.

The confrontation began after 1,500 Lezgin youths were drafted into the Azerbaijani army, supposedly to be sent to fight against the Armenians in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

On Friday, about 70,000 Lezgins demonstrated in the northern Azerbaijani town of Kysary under the slogan of "we will not go to war for Karabakh, we will fight for our freedom," said Timur Khanov of the Lezgin Salvation Movement.

Mr. Khanov said the Azerbaijani riot police opened fire, killing six protesters.

Azerbaijan's Interior Minister Iskender Hamidov denied the re-

ports about the intervention of Azerbaijani police and killings, and said the protest was a Russian provocation caused by Russia's imperial ambitions.

"Russia has recently been provoking the inhabitants in the north," he said. "Yesterday in Kysary, Russia's special intelligence forces provoked the people to a demonstration and to a confrontation between the Azerbaijanis and the Lezgins."

The Lezgin people, numbering about 400,000, are a Muslim ethnic group living in northern Azerbaijan and the neighbouring Dagestan region of Russia. Lezgin nationalists want to form their own state, Lezgistan.

Fierce fighting was reported Saturday in Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijani reports said the Armenian forces continued to attack the strategic Saragsum water reservoir, while the Armenian legislature of Nagorno-Karabakh said the reservoir was fully under Armenian control.

The reports could not be independently verified.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have been fighting for five years for control over Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous region ruled by Azerbaijan and populated mostly by Armenians. More than 3,000 people have died in the violence and hundreds of thousands have lost their homes.

Political kingpin detained in shock to Japanese party

TOKYO (AP) — Shin Kanemaru, the former power broker who became a focus of public ire over Japan's endemic political scandals, was held in a detention centre Sunday, accused of massive tax evasion.

Analysts saw the case as another spur to reform of a system in which politicians rely more on vast amounts of donated money than on their political ideas to win office and amass influence.

Mr. Kanemaru, 78, was arrested Saturday on suspicion of not reporting 800 million yen (\$6.7 million) of income earned in 1987 and 1989, prosecutors and news reports said.

The man who helped the last four prime ministers to power, including present Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, was in the Tokyo Detention Centre, where many of the cells are just 4.6 square metres. Centre officials, however, refused to say what type cell Mr. Kanemaru had.

Prosecutors had up to 21 more days to decide whether to charge him. Before the decision is made, he cannot be freed on bail.

If found guilty, Mr. Kanemaru would face a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a 5 million yen (\$42,900) fine, in addition to any tax payments and penalties.

Angola rebels claim victory in Huambo

LUANDA (AP) — UNITA rebels said Sunday they overran government forces and captured Angola's second largest city after a two-month battle.

In a rebel radio broadcast, UNITA General Demosthenes Chingulila said rebel forces had overrun the last two Angolan army garrisons in Huambo and captured 5,000 soldiers, including high-ranking officers.

The government would neither confirm or deny the report that UNITA — the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola — had taken the city 530 kilometres southeast of Luanda, the capital.

Defeat in Huambo would be a serious setback for the government, which has committed tens of thousands of troops to what has become the key battle in Angola's renewed civil war.

Military officials estimated two weeks ago that more than 10,000 people have been killed since government troops tried to overrun the rebel compound in Huambo on Jan. 9.

The central highlands city, once the home of 400,000 people, became headquarters for UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi and his rebel army after UNITA rejected the results of the country's first multiparty elections in September.

Peace accords signed between UNITA and the government in May 1991 called for the elections and were thought to have ended Angola's 16-year civil war, which broke out on the eve of independence from Portugal in 1975.

Another new S. Korean minister comes under fire

SEOUL (AP) — A confidant of President Kim Young Sam offered Sunday to resign as justice minister to help ease the week-old administration's embarrassment over ethics questions.

"I don't want to become a stumbling block to President Kim's reform," said Park Hee-Tae. He already had apologised because his daughter used her U.S. citizenship to avoid rigorous college entrance examinations by taking advantage of a special admission quota for foreigners.

This offer came amid mounting public criticism that another cabinet member had accumulated wealth unethically.

Mr. Kim, inaugurated on Feb. 25 as South Korea's first civilian president in 32 years, has said rooting out pervasive corruption will be a key task of his government.

It was not known whether Mr. Kim had accepted the justice minister's resignation, but aides said at least one minister might be replaced Monday.

On Sunday, the main opposition Democratic Party demanded that Health and Social Minister Park Yang Sil be fired immediately "to assuage the public anger."

Ms. Park, a doctor, was one of three women named to the 24 member cabinet. She has denied

wrongdoing, but newspapers have reported that she owns millions of dollars worth of real estate, some in the names of her children.

While not in themselves illegal, acquiring large amounts of land and land speculation are considered unethical in South Korea.

Aides said Mr. Kim has ordered checks on the financial backgrounds of senior government officials. Those found to have amassed wealth through unethical means will be replaced, they added.

"Public servants have to stay clean to enforce laws in a fair manner," Mr. Kim said in a nationwide telecast.

The Seoul mayor was fired last week after he was accused of misusing public lands by building in a protected green belt.

A chief presidential aide was replaced after one of his relatives was found to have assassinated a nationalist leader.

Public expectations run high for Mr. Kim, a former dissident, who has vowed to wipe out corruption and bureaucracy that grew under military-dominated governments over the last three decades.

South Korea had been ruled by ex-generals since former President Park Chung-hee seized power in a 1960 coup.

Chechen Republic accuses Russia of Moscow killings

AMMAN (J.T.) — The foreign minister of the Autonomous Republic of Chechnya in the Russian Federation, Shamseddin Yusef, has condemned the killings of a number of Chechens recently in Moscow.

According to a press release received from the Information Bureau of Chechnya in Amman, the Russian Intelligence Service is suspected of organising the Moscow killings.

The statement also blamed the Russian Intelligence Service for blowing up a train in the autonomous republic last week which killed 13 passengers and injured 12 others.

"We regret that the great state of Russia uses such criminal and disgraceful methods to fight against people who finally began to taste their long-lost freedom at last, the press release said.

Thatcher urges more aid for Russia

LONDON (AP) — World leaders must increase their "minute" levels of aid to Russia to keep President E. B. Yeltsin in power, Margaret Thatcher said in an interview published in the Sunday Express.

"If Russia goes into chaos and into the hands of a strong man, it will be partly the result of present day politicians who have been short of vision," Baroness Thatcher was quoted as saying.

"It has not cost us a fortune to defeat communism, yet the aid we are offering is minute," she said.

"How much would we have offered 10 years ago if the Soviet leadership had come to us and said we will end communism? How much would we have offered then? We would have offered a fortune," she said.

Lady Thatcher's comments

come amid a new political crisis in Moscow, where Mr. Yeltsin is under renewed attack from pro-Communists and hardline lawmakers he accuses of blocking economic reforms.

A showdown over who rules Russia is expected when the Congress of People's Deputies, the country's highest legislative body, opens an emergency session Wednesday.

London newspapers, Saturday and Sunday quoted unnamed intelligence sources as saying tension was higher in Moscow than at any time since the August 1991 coup which temporarily ousted Mikhail Gorbachev from power and led to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Lady Thatcher, a skeptic of closer European integration, told the Sunday Express that Britain could halve its contributions to the European Community and

send the money to Russia, instead.

"We could give £1.3 billion (\$1.07 billion) to Russia now to help them form their political parties and help them set up businesses," she was quoted as saying.

The Sunday Express said Lady Thatcher called for a new Marshall plan, the programme that restored democracy and economic order to Germany after World War II, but it did not elaborate.

The group of seven industrialised nations last year pledged \$24 billion in aid to Russia and the other former Soviet republics. The package included direct aid as well as export credits and technical advice.

Britain says it has allocated about £1 billion (\$1.44 billion) to Russia since 1991, half of it bilaterally, half through the European Community.

Clint Eastwood wins Directors Guild awards

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Clint Eastwood won the Directors Guild of America Award for his dark violent western Unforgiven, making him the overwhelming favourite for Best Director at the Oscars. Typically, the guild's choice repeats at the Academy Awards in the categories of Best Director and Best Picture. The Oscars will be presented on March 29. The guild honour, chosen by a vote of its 9,000 members, was presented in dual ceremonies in Beverly Hills and in New York. A variety of television directors also were honoured. Eastwood had been the heavy favourite to win the award, followed by writer-director Neil Jordan for his Irish thriller The Crying Game. The other nominees were Robert Altman for The Player, the brutal sendup of Hollywood and murder; Rod Taylor for his adaptation of the courtroom drama "A Few Good Men," and James Ivory, who directed the English class story Howards End. Only Mr. Reinher was nominated for a Best Director Oscar. In the 65 year history of the Directors Guild of America Award, only three winners haven't gone on to win the Best Director Oscar. The last time came in 1985. Steven Spielberg was recognised by the Guild for directing The Colour Purple but wasn't nominated for a Best Director Oscar. Sydney Pollack won the Oscar for Out Of Africa.

138 U.S. fliers missing after cold war spy flights

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States probed the coastal defences of the Soviet Union with thousands of "ferret" spy flights during the cold war and at least 31 flights were shot down, according to a published report.

At least 138 American pilots and crewmen who flew the highly secret espionage flights in the 1950s and 1960s remain unaccounted for, according to data developed by U.S. News and World Report and the ABC news programme, Primetime Live.

Citing U.S. declassified government records, the two news organisations said that at least 252 American airmen were shot down while flying espionage or support missions between 1950 and 1970.

According to the U.S. News report, 25 are known to have

been killed while 90 are known to have survived.

The official cover story at the time was that any planes flying near Soviet borders were engaged in "electromagnetic research" or "photographic mapping missions," U.S. News said.

The U.S. government publicly has admitted to one violation of Soviet air space: The 1960 U-2 flight of Francis Gary Powers, in which the airman was shot down, creating an international incident that strained ties between the two superpowers.

The news magazine also said that the large number of airmen unaccounted for indicates that some must have been captured and imprisoned.

Next month, a U.S. task force will be in Russia to ask authorities about the whereabouts of the missing airmen, the report said.



HINDU FESTIVAL: Two Nepali youth with painted faces and hands embrace inside a rickshaw during the ancient Hindu festival of Holi in the Himalayan kingdom. Millions of people take part in the celebration of friendship and reconciliation by painting faces and dousing brightly-coloured water on friends and strangers alike (AFP photo)

Detentions sully Zambian leader's record

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — President Frederick Chiluba's government has arrested at least 21 opposition politicians under state of emergency regulations, raising doubts about his commitment to human rights.

Mr. Chiluba came to power in a 1991 election that restored democracy to the impoverished southern African nation. But he imposed the state of emergency Thursday night following reports

that the opposition United National Independence Party (UNIP) was plotting to topple his government.

Among the 21 detainees are two sons of Kenneth Kaunda, Zambia's founding father and the man Mr. Chiluba succeeded as president. More detentions are considered likely.

"It is a far cry from democracy," Mr. Kaunda said Sunday in an interview. "It can't continue

or the people will explode. The government is mad. They are sick with their own power."

Mr. Chiluba said the plotters were backed by "foreign help," a reference to Iran and Iraq, countries with whom Mr. Kaunda had close ties. Their embassies in Lusaka have denied any involvement.

Zambia has not suffered any civil unrest since Mr. Chiluba's election 17 months ago.

Groups see restored U.S. leadership against world population growth

WASHINGTON (AP) — Population experts who last year accused the United States of shirking its global role in family planning now see signs of restored U.S. leadership under President Bill Clinton.

In drawing up an annual list of "picks and pans" for release Monday, officials of Population Action International praised steps Mr. Clinton already has taken, including lifting bans on a birth counseling that affected both foreign and domestic programmes.

Leadership is critical, family planning advocates say, because world population is increasing by 1 billion people every 11 years, threatening human survival as well as the environmental stability of the planet.

The list of "picks" praises Iran

and four other countries that have expanded access to family planning services. The "pan" list criticises Russia and four others for lagging on family planning. The United States topped last year's "pan" list as a country with "failed political leadership" on population issues.

The United States does not appear on this year's lists, but the report says Mr. Clinton's election promises a reversal in Reagan administration policies that "have had such negative effects on family planning programmes at home and overseas."

Indonesia, Bangladesh, Peru and Zimbabwe are cited as successes and Pakistan, Poland, Iraq and Ireland as failures.

A report last week by Johns Hopkins University noted that family planning efforts have

helped reduce fertility in developing countries from six children per couple in the 1960s to four today. It also pointed to high demand for birth control in a world where population growth is still an alarming problem.

"Many in the population community expect Mr. Clinton to reverse the policy disasters of the Reagan and Bush administrations rapidly," says Population Action International's Senior Vice President, Sharon L. Camp, in an article published in the journal Foreign Policy.

She writes that if all developing countries followed the most effective policies and the United States and other countries increased assistance to family planning programmes, "the population problem could be resolved in the lifetime of today's children."

Wartime pilot leaves medals to museum

LONDON (AP) — Britain's most decorated wartime pilot, Lord Cheshire, who died last year, has left his Victoria Cross and other World War II medals to the Imperial War Museum in London, his family revealed.

Lord Cheshire died of motor neurone disease last July. He was 74. "He thought the medals would be of interest to people visiting the museum, especially the younger generation," said his widow, Lady Kyder of Warsaw.

"He gave his log book and his uniform to the museum some time ago." During World War II, Geoffrey Leonard Cheshire flew more than 100 bombing missions over Germany, when the average pilot's life expectancy was 25 missions. He was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1944 as a Royal Air Force pilot with "a record second to none in Bomber Command...placing himself invariably in the forefront of the battle," according to the citation.